The X-Men Fan Clubzine: No. 20 75p

CEREBRO

No. 20 Vol. 4

Hiya Club members & onlookers,

As can be seen from the cover of this issue there is much discussion about XAVIER's role with the X-MEN in these pages. That's just for starters. But you'll know that when you read on.

As you'll no doubt notice from below, there's been another change in the SUBSCRIPTION RATES. It wasn't brought on by the SURVEY question, but out of economic & simplicity's sake - when we get reviewed its always the senior rate that's quoted. With mammoth issues & their cost I thought it wiser to keep the sub the same & reduce the number of issues received. I haven't worked out how this will affect OVERSEAS RATES yet but since none of you are due to renew this issue, that gives me a little leeway. Any NEW overseas fans interested in joining, please enquire.

Onward. I want to talk NEW MUTANTS. Or rather I want to talk about the sudden fan favouritism that it has now got since BILL SIENKIEWICZ started pencilling & inking the book with its accent on mood than anatomy (if you pardon the description). Do you regard this as a change of direction for the book ?? Do you think CLAREMONT would have plot/scripted similar stories like this for any other artist (although this largely depends on how much input the artist has, since CHRIS prefers to collaborate - although the cross-plot-line of RACHEL had to be well-thought out before hand) ??

Unlike a title like THOR which got totally revamped, the NEW MUTANTS have been given a 'fan favourite' artist. Many of you have felt that this title has needed a good shot up the arm & have now began to start buying the title again in the way that something different will always attracts 'readers' to see what is happening. NEW MUTANTS has now been plugged as the next 'fan favourite' comic to follow - walking the same path as MILLER's DARE-DEVIL & SIMONSON's THOR - & prices are likely to soar. Looking at this in an over-view sort of way, I can't help but feel that there is some sort of manipulation going on. Not necessarily from MARVEL (its reported that CLAREMONT wanted to alter some directions in the book & have the opportunity to work SIENKIEWICZ who wanted to get more firmly established in the reader's eye) although some influence is there. Not necessarily from the dealers, although they would be regarded as especially stupid not to recognise a potential money-maker. Not necessarily from the active-fans in the written pages of fandom. One shouldn't place any blame in any particular quarter as it takes 2 (or 3) to make something work. None of these can work with-out the other.

What does concern me is the 'lemming-like stampede' that comic fans make when rumour urges them to buy something. With the number of comics that are on the market these days & their expense, its hardly surprising the JOE COMIC FAN is a little but more selective in his choice of reads. What decides this choice is obviously subjective on the individual taste. Many will say for the art, due the comic book is a visual medium. Others will say because they favour a particular writer & the way he puts his own piece of reality into the book. Although not so professed in active-fandom, there is a strong constituency who buy them sheerly for the enjoyment they get from reading about the characters regardless of who does them. Oh, & don't forget the 'habitual comic fan' who picks up all the titles. But, as I said, something which is done differently will attract people intent on discovering what is going on. More often, they want to be 'in' with 'current/popular' buying. Nothing wrong with that if you like to be led.

Theproblem is sales switch to the next 'fan favourite' when rumour spreads again or when the certain 'innovator' leaves the title concerned - the comment on this being that the new creator hasn't got the touch of the old one. If he did it the same way you'd undoubtably feel its a rip-off merchant. Now, I'm sure that many of you don't do this. What I want you to consider is do you buy comics that you want to read or because they are in vogue?? If the latter, do you believe your tastes are being unconsciously manipulated ?? Feeling paranoid?? Onward: Big thanks to all the members who contributed to this issue especially to PAUL 'MR.DETAIL' CHOKRAN for the front cover & PETE 'DAZZLING' MARTIN for the REPRINT INDEX cover (not to mention IAN CLARK for research/material for its contents, so I won't mention it) & the ARTISTS POOL of MARIO BOTTE, NEAL BURTON, ANTONIO DE SARIO, TOM FARNHILL, GORDON FOULDS, ROGER GIBSON, LORRI GOODISON, GARY HENDERSON, JOHN INNES, ISKANDER ISLAM, FIONA JEROME, MARK MAGGOTT. SUE MASON, TONY PLEWS, DAVE PRICE, DANNY REDDEN, DAVE 'JOSE' ROACH, ANDY SAUNDERS, SANDY SCHREIBER, JOHN SHORT, PHILIP STEELE, DARREN WHEELER, STEVE WHITAKER & TRACY WILLIAMS.

DEADLINE FOR # 21 : 29th SEPTEMBER 1984

Its a long summer & I need some new artwork. Those interested in a second pencil & ink swop list send an S.A.E. X-MP # 9 I've been assured will be out shortly. Those waiting for replies from me - its coming. Don't forget to write. Be hearing from ya,

Diabetically yours, Lampey 26.06.84

P.S. Ever got the feeling I can out of space? Good lucks exam-takers.

'CEREBRO' is the official publication of the X-MEN FAN CLUB - published & edited by : G.F.WILLIETTS, 74 GLOUCESTER ROAD, BRIDGWATER, SOMERSET TA6 6EA.
Printed by: PURNELL SECRETARIAL SERVICES LTD, 27 FRIARN ST; BRIDGWATER, SOMERSET.

PLEASE NOTE CHANGES IN SUBSCRIPTIONS:
SUBSCRIPTION to the X-MEN FAN CLUB entitles you to 5 issues of CEREBRO, Club Offers, discounts, competitions, etc. Only Club members can see their material in print & although every effort is made to get everything in please bear with me if there are delays. Putting an issue is like an enormous jigsaw of missing pieces.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES : -

U.K. (ALL AGES) : £4.50
EIRE : As above. If sending IRISH P0s ensure amount is equivalent to ENGLISH STERLING.
USA & CANADA : ANY AGE : -
SEA : 10 dollars AIR : 20 dollars
Single issues: SEA: 2 dollars AIR: 4 dollars
OTHER COUNTRIES : PLEASE ENQUIRE

Please ensure that cheque/money orders are cashable in the U.K. & made payable to : - G.F.WILLIETTS. Enquires are welcome & SAEs or INTERNATIONAL REPLY COUPONS are appreciated.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP can be granted under certain conditions ie another member of the same household wishes to join. Such membership has similar rights but does not receive a copy of CEREBRO. This does not apply to those who receive CEREBRO in trade. Query with an SAE.

While every effort is made to reply, return art, articles, etx, the Club nor I cannot take any responsibility for loss, delays, or damage. RETURN POSTAGE will ensure return after use, otherwise at my discretion.

THE X-MEN FAN CLUB is a non-profit making organisation run by fans for fans & is sanctioned by MARVEL COMICS GROUP to which the X-MEN, NEW MUTANTS, ALPHA FLIGHT & related characters are
(c) MARVEL COMICS GROUP 1984 - all rights reserved & used with permission. Other characters are (c) their respective comic comp--anies & no deliberate infring--ment of their rights is intended. All other material is (c) THE X-MEN FAN CLUB & that of its individual members - who take responsibility for their own views & opinions & not the Clubas a body

ADVERTISING

	MEMBERS	NON-MEMBERS
PAGE	£16.00	£21.00
HALF	£ 9.00	£10.50
QUARTER	£ 4.50	£ 6.50
CLASSIFIEDS	FREE	ENQUIRE

We can prepare ADS at a reasonable rate. Reductions, coloured paper &/or inks are ADDITIONAL COSTS. Delivery of leaflets, etc can be negotiated if interested.
THE X-MEN FAN CLUB reserves the right to refuse adverts which are untidy or not within the spirit or aims of the Club's activities or of a distasteful nature without prejudice.

PRINT RUN: 500 MEMBERSHIP: 280

CLUB OFFERS

**ALL CLUB OFFERS ARE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY & ONLY TO CLUB MEMBERS, UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED. ALSO, UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED THERE IS A LIMIT OF ONE ISSUE OF ANYTHING PER MEMBER (EXCEPT FOR THOSE ON THE FLOAT, WHERE THE LIMIT CAN BE 2 IF ORDERED IN ADVANCE) - SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. THIS ALLOWS EVERYONE AN EQUAL CHANCE AT THE CLUB STOCK. IT IS HOPED THAT THE CLUB OFFERS THE BEST OVERALL COMPETITIVE PRICES AROUND.

THIS LIST SUPERCEDES ALL PREVIOUS LISTS. THE CLUB RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CHANGE PRICES, ESPECIALLY ON THOSE THAT ARE MENTIONED BUT NOT YET AVAILABLE - BUT THIS WILL BE IN PROPORTION TO WHAT WE PAY FOR THEM. (This happened recently in FEBRUARY when the importers raised prices due to the poor dollar/pound exchange rate - everything went up by 5p!!!).

OVERSEAS MEMBERS PLEASE ENQUIRE BEFORE ORDERING & I'LL GIVE A QUOTE ON POSTAGE RATE CHARGES.

IF YOU ORDER ISSUES IN ADVANCE OF THEIR BEING PRINTED PLEASE BE PATIENT. ITS NOT OUR FAULT JUST THEIR SCHEDULING.

THE PRICES ARE ABSOLUTES ie DISCOUNTS DON'T APPLY TO THEM.

N.B. STOCKS OF SOME ISSUES ARE LIMITED. WHERE POSSIBLE PLEASE STATE ALTERNATIVES OF (NEAR) EQUIVALENT VALUE OR INDIC--ATE A DESIRE FOR YOUR MONEY TO BE RETURNED. THIS IS VERY TRUE THE LONGER THAT AN ISSUE OF CEREBRO HAS BEEN OUT.

WE GET OUR COMICS ON MONTHLY IMPORT, SO ENQUIRE ABOUT THE AVAILABILITY OF ISSUES OF X-MEN, ALPHA FLIGHT, NEW MUTANTS,.. DEFENDERS & MINI/MAXI-SERIES IF INTERESTED BEYOND THE POINT LISTED IN OUR LIST. IF YOU WISH THEM ON REGULAR BASIS, PLEASE READ FLOAT DETAILS FURTHER ON.**

POSTAGE & PACKING: PLEASE READ THIS PARAGRAPH CAREFULLY!!!
Many of the comics for convienice are letter coded.

(R) is	1 6ocent-size comic	- ADD 30p
(D) is	1 double-size/annual comic	- ADD 35p
For each additional (R) rate comic		- ADD 8p
For each additional (D) rate comic		- ADD 10p

Base your postage calculations off the (D) rate should your selection contain a (D) size comic & then use the addition rule.

If you have chosen an item which has its own p&p listed then just apply the addition rule for the other items.

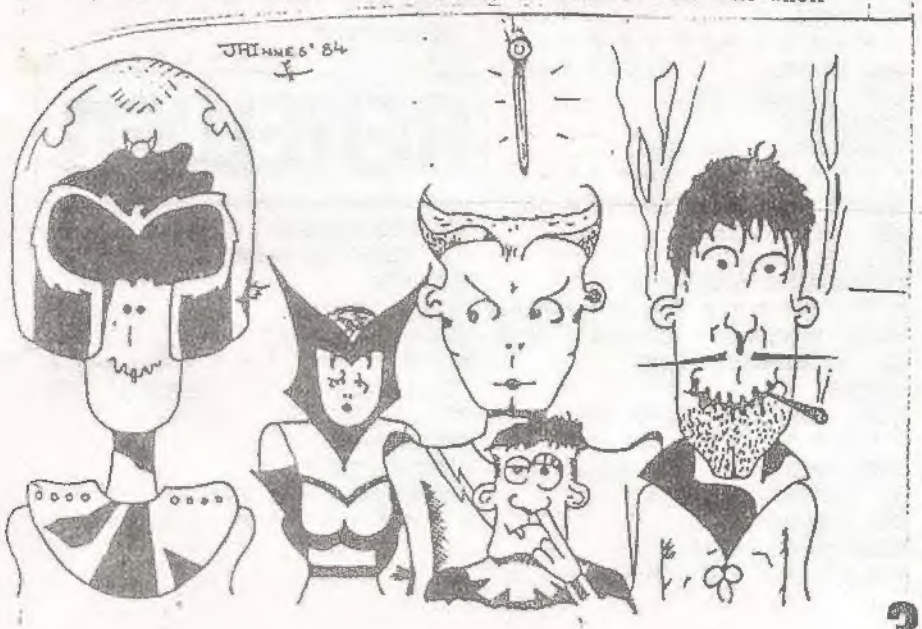
Envelopes are sealed securely BUT tend not to be protected by cardboard (unless at my discretion) on the assumption that the postman is likely to roll rather than crease the envelope if no one answers the door.

If you don't feel happy about this, CARDBOARD can be added at 5p per piece (this covers its postal weight - you're not paying for the cardboard).

If you think its going to rain, ADD another 5p for a polythene bag protection. Please state both if you want them.

NOTE: SHOULD ANY PARCEL WE SEND ARRIVE IN A DAMAGED STATE, GO TO YOUR LOCAL POST OFFICE & FILL IN A 'P58' AS SOON AS POSSIBLE & CLAIM DAMAGES. Club members & ourselves recently did this when this happened & were paid damages. The GPO is obliged to look into any claims. A hint also, if you take the form home to fill in, when its complete it need only be put in an envelope marked to your local 'POSTMASTER ' of your nearest town - it would not require a stamp.

ITEM : CEREBRO - AVAILABLE TO ALL!!! If you like the issue before you, why not buy a back issue or 3 & burn some midnight oil reading them. ≠ 7-8 contains an interview with CHRIS CLAREMONT, ≠ 18-19 with LOUISE JONES. The X-INDEX started with ≠ 4, alas sold out. What few remaining pages of issues sold out remaining of the INDEX will be sent to members who ask when they buy more than 3 issues. POSTAGE & PACKING: 30p on top of issue price. ADD 10p for each additional issue. CEREBRO ≠ 7,8 & 10 @ 40p; ≠ 11 & 12 @ 45p; ≠ 13 & 14 @ 50p; ≠ 15 @ 55p; ≠ 16 & 17 @ 65p; ≠ 18 - 20 @ 75p.



ITEM: X-MEN COMIC - note, we are running short on some of the earlier issues listed: ≠ 141(R) @ 40p; ≠ 142-143(R) @ £1; ≠ 144 - 149(R)@ 40p; ≠ 150(D)@ 45p; ≠ 151-157, 159-164 @ 40p; ≠ 166(D)@60p; ≠ 167-170, 172-174(R)@ 40p; ≠ 175(D) @ 65p; ≠ 176-183(R) @ 40p; ≠ 182-185(R)@ 45p; ≠ 186(D)@70p; ≠ 187 onwards (R)@ 45p.
X-MEN ANNUAL ≠ 5, 6(D)@60p; ≠ 7(D)@ 65p
X-MEN ANNUAL ≠ 8 will be out later in the year.
X-MEN SPECIAL EDITION ≠ 1(D) (reprints GS≠ 1) @ £2.40
PHOENIX-THE UNTOLD STORY (≠ 137 before it was ≠ 137 plus dialogue from CLAREMONT & BYRNE regarding the changes0 changes) (D)@ £1.35.

ITEM: NEW MUTANTS COMIC - note ≠ 1's stock is low. ≠ 1(R)@ 45p; ≠ 2, 5-15(R)@ 40p; ≠ 16 - 20(R)@45p; ≠ 21(D)@ 70p; ≠ 22 onwards (R) @ 45p.
The last 3 issues mentioned, aren't out yet, but you'll notice ≠ 21 is double-size. There is also a NEW MUTANTS ANNUAL coming out this year.

ITEM: ALPHA FLIGHT COMIC ≠ 1(D)@ 65p; ≠ 2-9(R)@40p; ≠10-11 @ 45p; ≠ 12(D)@ 70p; ≠ 13 - 14 onwards @ 45p.

ITEM: DEFENDERS COMIC - enquire if required.

ITEM: CROSS-OVER/INDIVIDUAL APPEARANCES ELSEWHERE:
AVENGERS ANNUAL ≠ 10(D)@60p intro ROGUE & X-MEN
DAZZLER ≠ 1 & 2(R)@40p(XMEN)
HULK ANNUAL≠11(D)@60p SASQUATCH-BYRNE script
MARVEL FANFARE ≠ 3(D)@80p X-MEN-good COCKRUM art
MARVEL TEAM-UP ANNUAL ≠ 6(D) @ 65p - NEW MUTANTS
MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE≠ 76(R)@ 40p - ICEMAN
WHAT IF PHOENIX HAD LIVED ≠ 27(D)@ 50p
WHAT IF WOLVERINE HAD KILLED THE HULK ≠ 31(D)@ 60p
X-MEN/TEEN TITANS ≠ 1(D)@ £1.20

ITEM: MISCELLANEOUS PRICED:
BIZARRE ADVENTURES ≠ 27 @ 70p + 35p p&p - magazine b&w - features ICEMAN, NIGHTCRAWLER & PHOENIX.
COMICS FEATURE ≠ 4 @ 80p + 35p p&p - features BYRNE's original pencils for ≠137. This zine is supposed to be rare - only 7 copies available!
GRAPHIC NOVEL ≠ 5 @ £4.20+ 50p p&p - X-MEN, 2 left.
G&T X-MEN INDEX @ £4.20 + 50p p&p - only 2 left!
COMICS JOURNAL ≠ 57 @ £2.00 + 50p p&p - features a long interview with JOHN BYRNE.
DAVE HORNSBY POSTER of X-MEN @ 40p (inc p&p) - sent in tube, poster in colour.

ITEM: MINI/MAXI SERIES:
MAGIK ≠ 1 - 4(R)@ 40p
SECRET WARS ≠ 1 - 6 onwards (R) @ 55p
X-MEN/MICRONAUTS ≠ 1-4(R)@ 40p
Coming soon:
BEAST & DAZZLER ≠ 1 - 4 has been put on schedule to follow the DAZZLER GRAPHIC NOVEL.
KITTY & WOLVERINE ≠ 1 - 6 not 4 issues as previously announced.
ICEMAN ≠ 1 - 4 is new to me too but its on advance order 3 months hence.
MAGNETO ≠ 1 - 4 is supposed to be out around Christmas.
FIRE-STAR ≠ 1 - 4 - yep, the character from a certain cartoon series. She's supp--osed to go from this into the X-MEN, so I'll probably stock a few.
If any of you members want to put deposits down for any of the above to reserve them, any money will be put under FLOAT conditions. Several have done this with the SECRET WARS already.

ITEM: FEW LEFT DEPARTMENT- First come, first served basis. Limited quantity so please remember alternatives.
CHAMPIONS ≠ 10(R)@ 40p
CONTEST OF CHAMPIONS ≠1(R) @60p; ≠ 2(R)@ 45p
DAREDEVIL ≠ 196(R)@ 40p -features WOLVERINE
DAZZLER ≠ 17 & 19(R)@ 35p -features ANGEL
DAZZLER ≠ 22(R)@35p-ROGUE
DEFENDERS ≠ 129-134(R)@45p
FANTASTIC FOUR ROAST ≠ 1 (R)@ 40p - X-MEN parody inc.
INCREDIBLE HULK ≠ 263(R)@ 35p - features AVALANCHE
MARVEL AGE ≠9; 13 & 14(R)@ 25p; ≠ 15 & 16(R)@ 35p. ≠46 features SINKIE/ICE cover of NEW MUTANTS.
MARVEL FANFARE ≠ 2(R)@£1
MICRONAUTS ≠ 37(R)@40p -features NIGHTCRAWLER
POWER/FIST ≠ 56(R)@ 40p - features LIVING MONOLITH
ROM ≠ 17(R)@ 45p - X-MEN; ≠ 56(R)@ 40p - ALPHA FLIGHT
X-MEN CLASSICS ≠ 3(D)@£1.45
OBNOXIO THE CLOWN VS THE X-MEN ≠ 1(R)@ 50p.
MARVEL DIGEST SERIES : HEROES(X-MEN)≠ 10 & 11; cont as X-MEN DIGEST ≠12-15,20,24-26 @ 20p + 20p p&p
TITANS POCKETBOOK ≠ 5 @ 20p + 20p p&p - features reprint of TALES OF SUSPENSE ≠ 49 which co-starred ANGEL. ADD (R) rate per each extra pocketbook ordered.

ITEM: HAND-PAINTED TEE-SHIRTS - done to your specifications in full colour. Sample price: £5.00 (inc p&p) which is for one character on white medium tee-shirt. Additio--nal characters, backgroun--ds, & logos cos extra - enquire & I'll quote a price. Include an SAE. Money donate to Club funds. Choose from the pages of the X-MEN, ALPHA FLIGHT, NEW MUTANTS & I'll match it to your specification.

CLUB MEMBERS PAGES

ITEM: CEREBRO TEE-SHIRTS. If you would like a monotone copy of any illustration or cover that you see in CEREBRO on your chest, we can arrange it. The design is put onto a transfer (maximium size of B4 - that's 36cm x 25 cm) which is then printed on a white or blue polyster tee-shirt & is permanent. The transfer can come in black, red, blue, green or brown. State prefere--nce. Allow 3 weeks delivery time.
Prices: 26" - 32" @ £5.30
36" - above @ £5.80
p&p included. If you want your own design done please enquire. All in aid of Club funds.

ITEM: X-MEN POSTCARDS - set of 16 black & white postcards each featuring a different X-MAN illustrated by Club member TIM TURNER. Members who've bought them tend not to use them, so the best way to see them is to buy a pack. Prices include p&p.MEMBERS ONLY: 1 pack @ £1.50
2 packs@ £2.00
I'd really like to clear them to help finance the Club badges.

ITEM: X-MEN CHESS PIECES - see ad further in.

ITEM: THE PACKAGES - initially began as a means for me to share original material I've picked up over the years.If you're interested in seeing how a MARVEL cover is devel--oped before its handed over to the artist concerned or curious as to the size a comic page actually is - then this is the cheap way of finding out. Since inception several members have added some of their best work under the Club sets. This is a fund raiser for the Club - please support it, huh ?? Prices in include p&p.

*****COVER CONCEPTS (A4)***
PACKAGE A : X-MEN ≠ 112,≠112 alternative & ≠ 115 @ 80p
PACKAGE B : IRON FIST ≠ 15, ≠ 10 & ≠ 3 @ 80p
PACKAGE C : X-MEN ≠ 105 - 3 alternatives @ 80p
PACKAGE D : MS. MARVEL ≠ 9 - 5 alternative designs @ £1
PACKAGE E : DAREDEVIL ≠ 158, MICRONAUTS ≠ 4 & MS. MARVEL ≠ 23 (unpublished) @ 80p
PACKAGE F : MARVEL TEAM-UP ≠ 64 & MTU ANNUAL ≠ 1 alter--native @ 50p
PACKAGE G : X-MEN ≠ 103 & ≠ 121 @ 50p

INTERIOR ART PAGES (A3)*
PACKAGE H : X-MEN ≠ 101 page 10 & ≠ 107 pages 10 & 27 - all at 90p
PACKAGE I : X-MEN ≠ 118 page 7 & ≠ 128 page 10 @ 70p
PACKAGE J : X-MEN ANNUAL ≠4 pages 13 & 29 @ 70p
PACKAGE O : X-MEN ≠ 99 page 11 & ≠ 147 page 16 @ 70p

***CLUB ART SPECIALS (A3/Φ)**
PACKAGE K : CEREBRO ≠ 11 cover, ≠ 10 backvover & ≠ 9 cover @ 70p
PACKAGE L : 2 A3-size pictu--res of the X-MEN based off photos on XAVIER's desk in his study in X-MEN ≠ 117, illustrated by PETE MARTIN & only 65p
PACKAGE M : 4 A4 pictures of X-DUCKS featuring the PONDWADDLERS & WOLVERIDUCK by DANNY REDDEN @ £1
PACKAGE N : 4 A4 pictures of WOLVERINE & his father by DANNY REDDEN @ £1
Anymember ordering M & N together will also receive an A3 enlargement of the illo on page 29a of CEREBRO ≠ 16.
Generally, PACKAGES are sent in a tube,although the smaller A4 size maybe sent with comics if order--ed at the same time.

ITEM: THE FLOAT - you keep hearing it mentioned, don't you ?? Well,rather than wait for each issue of CEREBRO to come out so you know what to order, you can advance order it or place a standing order for certain mags to be sent as soon as I get it. Send an SAE for a FLOAT form & send an initial £5 (more, if you are ord--ering more obviously) & each month they get sent directly to you & the money deducted from your float. As an incentive, if you order X-MEN you pay 5p less than our normal selling price & if you order MARVEL AGE then it comes post free with your order. This service covers X-MEN, ALPHA FLIGHT, NEW MUTANTS, DEFENDERS & REVELENT MINI-SERIES,etc. This can be quite handy if you don't live near an import shop.

NEWS

Lots this time around, some of which I've put on the previous page regarding mini/maxi-series. The DAZZLER GRAPHIC NOVEL was delayed so it would tie in at the right point in her timeline. X-MEN ≠ 186 has art by BARRY SMITH inked by TERRY AUSTIN & is double sized. As you'll notice from the ads in MARVEL comics, merchandise of ALPHA FLIGHT & WOLVERINE T-SHIRTS, pennants,patches stickers & articulated figures notably WOLVERINE & MAGNETO are out - I'm going to get some supplied for those interested. Ask for prices (SAE natch). Portfolios & posters seem delayed - don't know reason. CANNONBALL is in MARVEL TEAM-UP ≠ 149. ALPHA FLIGHT ARE IN MTU ANNUAL THIS YEAR. X-MEN are part of a module for a new ROLE-PLAY--ING GAME inc minatures.

THIS IS THE 20th UPDATE OF CURRENT MEMBERSHIP - CORRECT AT GOING TO PRESS. PLEASE INFORM ME OF ANY ADDRESS CHANGE, ESPECIALLY IF YOU HAVE GIVEN ME A TERM-TIME ADDRESS & YOUR TIME SPENT THERE. I CAN'T BE HELD RESPONSIBLE IF YOU CHANGE & DON'T TELL ME. IF YOU WANT TO ENSURE THAT I HAVE BEEN INFORMED INCLUDE AN SAE FOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT. THE X-MEN FAN CLUB PROMOTES FAN-TO-FAN COMMUNICATION BUT SO THAT NO MEMBER SUDDENLY GETS A DELUGE OF MAIL WHICH COULD PUT HIM/HER OUT OF POCKET, IT IS TACTFULLY SUGGESTED THAT YOU SHOULD INCLUDE AN SAE UNTIL A MUTUAL AGREEMENT TO DO OTHERWISE IS REACHED BETWEEN YOURSELVES.

NEW

STEWART ALLWOOD (X-FAN ≠ 547)
167 LON DOLAFAN
VAYNOR
NEWTOWN
POWYS SY16 1QY
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
MARK BARRETT (X-FAN ≠ 559)
1 WESTMORELAND ROAD
NEW BRIGHTON
MERSEYSIDE L45 1HU
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
MATTHEW BOND (X-FAN ≠ 560)
DEAN
WOOLSTONE
FARINGDON
OXON
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
NEAL BURTON (X-FAN ≠ 554)
59 LLOYD DRIVE
GREASBY
WIRRAL
MERSEYSIDE L49 1RQ
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
JON CRANE (X-FAN ≠ 546)
17 NAPIER CLOSE
MATTHEWS ESTATE
TIDWORTH
HANTS SP9 7PJ
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
LINZI CRAWFORD (X-FAN ≠ 549)
AIR PHOTOGRAPHIC
RAF LOOSIEMOUTH
MORAY
SCOTLAND
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
RAJ DANDIA (X-FAN ≠ 561)
309 GILLOTT ROAD
EDGBASTON
BIRMINGHAM B16 ORT
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
MARTIN DONOVAN (X-FAN ≠ 553)
45 HEWITT AVENUE
ST. HELENS
MERSEYSIDE WA10 4ER
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
NIGEL DOWNES (X-FAN ≠ 555)
23 RICHARDSHAW LANE
PUDSEY
WEST YORKSHIRE LS28 7NB
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
PAUL DRURY (X-FAN ≠ 558)
53 BLACKBROOK ROAD
ST. HELENS
MERSEYSIDE WA11 9QA
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
SIMON ENTWISLE (X-FAN ≠ 563)
6 CARLTON GATE
BROOME MANOR
SWINDON
WILTSHIRE SN3 1NF
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
CHARLES FOXWELL (X-FAN ≠ 557)
10 KINGS ARBOUR
RINGWAY SOUTHALL
MIDDLESEX UB2 5TA
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
PHILIP HUNT (X-FAN ≠ 552)
12 FRANKLIN ROAD
BOURNVILLE
BIRMINGHAM B30 2HH
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
JOHN JACKSON (X-FAN ≠ 556)
29 KINGSFORD STREET
SALFORD 5
LANCS
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
ADRIAN LUTTON (X-FAN ≠ 545)
20 CLINE ROAD
BANBRIDGE
COUNTY DOWN
NORTHERN IRELAND BT32 2HS
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
ALAN McCLUSKY (X-FAN ≠ 550)
20 RIPON GARDENS
CHESSINGTON
SURREY KT9 2QU
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
KENNETH MILLER (X-FAN ≠ 565)
36 CLUNY DRIVE
EDINBURGH
SCOTLAND EH10 6DX
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
ANDREW PHYTHIAN (X-FAN ≠ 564)
91 KILN LANE
ST. HELENS
MERSEYSIDE WA10 6AZ
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
PETER RUBINSTEIN (X-FAN ≠ 544)
LAISC
27 - 67 LEXHAM GARDENS
LONDON W8 6JT
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
MILES SMITH (X-FAN ≠ 551)
29 MAIN STREET
SWANLAND
NORTH FERRIBY
NORTH HUMBERSIDE HU14 3QP
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
DAVID WEST (X-FAN ≠ 562)
'EASTDENE'
23 SPARELEAZE HILL
LOUGHTON
ESSEX IG10 1BS
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
DARREN WHEELER (X-FAN ≠ 548)
49 GROSVENOR ROAD
HIGHFIELD
SOUTHAMPTON
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

RENEWED

RICHARD HARRIS (X-FAN ≠ 92)
99 BENHURST GARDENS
SELSDON
SOUTH CROYDON
SURREY CR2 8NY
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
TIM TURNER (X-FAN ≠ 95)
28 ELM STREET
HOLLINGWOOD
CHESTERFIELD
DERBYSHIRE S43 2LH
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

PETER POOLE (X-FAN ≠ 108)
FLAT 11
349 HARVIST ROAD
QUEEN'S PARK
LONDON NW6 liable to change again
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
FAREN SHORT (X-FAN ≠ 130)
20 GRANTS AVENUE
BOURNEMOUTH
DORSET
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
RAY BLACKMOOR (X-FAN ≠ 136)
23 PERSHORE ROAD
MOSSLEY ESTATE
BLOXWICH
WALSALL
WEST MIDLANDS WS3 2UE
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
STEVE KANE (X-FAN ≠ 137)
44 LASHAM COURT
BELLINGE
NORTHAMPTON
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
DICK DOMAR (X-FAN ≠ 138)
9 HIGHLANDS ROAD
WOLVERHAMPTON WV3 8AH
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
DYFRUG WILLIAMS (X-FAN ≠ 160)
121 HUDDLESTON ROAD
TUFFNELL PARK
LONDON N7
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
MARK MAGGOTT (X-FAN ≠ 169)
65 FLOWERSMEAD
UPPER TOOTING PARK
LONDON SW17 7SZ
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
DAVID GRYC (X-FAN ≠ 170)
17 SHAKESPEARE ROAD
SITTINGBOURNE
KENT ME10 3AB
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
IAN CLARK (X-FAN ≠ 181)
11 GREENDYKES ROAD
DUNDEE
SCOTLAND
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
BRIAN MORGAN (X-FAN ≠ 367)
32 HYLTON ROAD
HARTLEPOOL
CLEVELAND YS26 0AH
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
RICHARD THOMAS (X-FAN ≠ 380)
6 BROUGHTON ROAD
ADLINGTON
MACCLESFIELD
CHESHIRE SK10 4ND
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
ROY McVEAN (X-FAN ≠ 381)
311 RENFREW STREET
PEMBROKE
ONTARIO
CANADA K8A 5S2
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
NIGEL WELLINGS (X-FAN ≠ 392)
THE BUNGALOW
VOLE ROAD
MARK
NR. HIGHBRIDGE
SOMERSET
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
ADRIAN REYNOLDS (X-FAN ≠ 396)
132 SCHOOL ROAD
HOCKLEY HEATH
SOLIHULL
WEST MIDLANDS B94 6RB
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
MARTIN JACKSON (X-FAN ≠ 397)
71 LONG ELMES
HARROW WEALD
MIDDLESEX HA3 5LE
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
PAUL TRIMBLE (X-FAN ≠ 398)
15 BANNVIEW HEIGHTS
BANBRIDGE
COUNTY DOWN
NORTHERN IRELAND
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
MIKE LEWIS (X-FAN ≠ 400)
GIBRALTAR POINT
WHITE HILL
TACKLEY
OXON OX5 3AY
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

DAVE BEZZINA (X-FAN ≠ 403)
13 WESTCOTT HOUSE
EAST INDIA DOCK ROAD
POPLAR
LONDON E14 0DG
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
DAVE PAINTER (X-FAN ≠ 404)
7 NORTON DRIVE
STIRCHLEY PARK
TELFORD
SHROPSHIRE
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
ANDY FOXWELL (X-FAN ≠ 417)
10 KINGS ARBOUR
RINGWAY SOUTHALL
MIDDLESEX UB2 5TA
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
MARTIN WATSON (X-FAN ≠ 450)
41 HEATHCOTE DRIVE
EAST GRINSTEAD
SUSSEX
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

ADDRESS CHANGE

FRANK FLOWRIGHT (X-FAN ≠ 53)
54 ROWAN ROAD
BEXLEYHEATH
KENT
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
JOHN GATEHOUSE (X-FAN ≠ 67)
6 LITCHFIELD CRESCENT
MIDANBURY
SOUTHAMPTON SO2 2BJ
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
ROBIN WHALE (X-FAN ≠ 104)
9 MANOR CLOSE
HAEMOOR
PENZANCE
CORNWALL TR18 3HZ
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
GARY OXFORD (X-FAN ≠ 106)
35 ASCHAM ROAD
GRANGE PARK
FRESHBROOK
SWINDON SN5 6BE
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
KEVIN HARES (X-FAN ≠ 133)
57 GLENFALL
YATE
BRISTOL BS17 4LY
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
ALLISTER SPENCE (X-FAN ≠ 269)
10 CLAVERLEY ESTATE
WORMHOLT ROAD
SHEPHERDS BUSH
LONDON
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
RICHARD ARMSTRONG (X-FAN ≠ 282)
120 SANDYHILL GARDENS
BALLYMUN
DUBLIN 11
REPUBLIC OF GRECAN
EIRE
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
IAN SCOTT (X-FAN ≠ 301)
FLAT 7 - 15
VICTORIA CENTRE
NOTTINGHAM NG1 3PE
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
RAI DAVIES (X-FAN ≠ 429)
9 HILLHEAD ROAD
BOOTLE
MERSEYSIDE L20 9PF
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
ANDY SAUNDERS (X-FAN ≠ 509)
OGILVIE HOUSE
LOWER BROADLANE
ILLOGAN
CORNWALL
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

RENEWAL

The question is: Do you feel lucky? I mean. Is your number down here & you're due to renew or isn't it. There are 46 of you who should know. So, eyes down & look in. It is appreciated if you can get your subs in by dead-line for paperwork sake but you can renew at any time. LEMPREY'84

117 123 133 174
182 185 186
189 198 207 211
278 283 294
405 407 408 409
410 411 412
413 414 416 420
423 424 425
426 431 433 434
435 438 443
444 446 449 451
452 453 454
455 456 457 470

APPEAL

I'm running out of room, so in brief. Our last appeal raised some 45000 used stamps for cancer research. Tops @ were :
STEVE MARTIN = 18022
DICK DOMAR = 8225
FRANK FLOWRIGHT 6825
PETE TAMLYN = 6021
with another 66 members taking part. Many thanks. My notes have gone awol, may I have nominations for the next APPEAL please. I've been thinking about widening its base & collect enough to train a guide-dog for the blind but we would need to collect more than stamps. Comments ?? For the time being, keep sending them in please.

~OUTING~

AUGUST 3rd 1984 - a FRIDAY. Those staying overnight can go to the WESTMINISTER COMIC MART the next day. Earlier plans have been scrapped now thinking in terms of LONDON DUNGEON. Details to follow. Send in SAE if interested in going.

APPOLOGIES

PAUL CORNELL would like to apologise to any members named in his fictious Scotland report in ≠ 20 if any offence was taken.

Personally, I shaln't be so lenient next time someone tries to mislead me. Friendship starts with something called 'honesty'. Tampa '84.

X-MEN FAN CLUB BIRTHDATES

MEMBER	X-FAN	DATE	MONTH
ROY MURPHY	(#448)	02	NOV
PETER RUBINSTEIN	(#544)	02	NOV
RICHARD BEARDWELL	(409)	03	NOV
DEBBIE GILBERT	(#492)	03	NOV
MARK MAGGOTT	(#169)	04	NOV
ROGER RENDLE	(#410)	04	NOV
TIM FIELD	(#506)	04	NOV
MARTIN JACKSON	(#397)	07	NOV
DAVID WILLIAMS	(#278)	09	NOV
CLIFF POOLEY	(#472)	11	NOV
MIKE MARKS	(#541)	13	NOV
PETER FRENCH	(#333)	17	NOV
ROBIN GREEN	(#408)	21	NOV
WILLIAM BOLSTER	(#453)	21	NOV
MATTHEW BOND	(#560)	22	NOV
LINZI CRAWFORD	(#549)	24	NOV
DANIEL NOQUET	(#501)	28	NOV
MARTIN YATES	(#283)	30	NOV
DANNY QUINN	(#444)	01	DEC
FIONA JEROME	(#376)	02	DEC
DAVE BEZZINA	(#403)	04	DEC
GUY CHALKLEY	(#504)	04	DEC
DAVE PRICE	(#120)	06	DEC
JOHN INNES	(#535)	07	DEC
PAUL NICHOLLS	(#446)	08	DEC
PAUL CHOKRAN	(#254)	15	DEC
PAUL WEST	(#206)	16	DEC
NICK DUFFELL	(#462)	16	DEC
RAI DAVIES	(#429)	18	DEC
MARTIN DONOVAN	(#553)	19	DEC
MATT BINDER	(#111)	21	DEC
PAUL SCAIFE	(#439)	21	DEC
GERALD MIDGLEY	(#152)	23	DEC
ANDREW FOXWELL	(#417)	23	DEC
STEVE COOTE	(#198)	25	DEC
KEVIN OLIVER	(#407)	26	DEC
DAVID HAY	(#523)	27	DEC
KINGLEY LOH	(#531)	27	DEC
ADRIAN WAKE	(#304)	29	DEC
JOHN BALLARD	(#499)	29	DEC
DAVID PARDOE	(#291)	30	DEC
PAUL HAYWARD	(#518)	30	DEC
LAURA HOLLAND	(#460)	31	DEC
ROGER GIBSON	(#386)	01	JAN
SIMON JOWETT	(#182)	02	JAN
DAVE ROACH	(#170)	04	JAN
GARY HENDERSON	(#303)	05	JAN
DON BENNETT	(#337)	05	JAN
CHRIS BUTLER	(#440)	08	JAN
JON BEETLESTONE	(#405)	09	JAN
TOM FARNHILL	(#508)	10	JAN
CHRIS MEARS	(#516)	11	JAN
JUSTIN EBBS	(#189)	12	JAN
DAVE McKENNA	(#388)	13	JAN
LAURENCE ALISON	(#292)	16	JAN
TIM O'SULLIVAN	(#482)	17	JAN
LEE WORRALLO	(#167)	19	JAN
GRAHAM SIM	(#458)	19	JAN
PHILIP ANDREWS	(#475)	20	JAN
JILL THOMAS	(# 70)	22	JAN
ROBERT TROUGHT	(#436)	23	JAN
EDDIE STACHELSKI	(#205)	24	JAN
ALAN THOMAS	(#447)	25	JAN
MARTIN PAY	(#480)	25	JAN
TRACY WILLIAMS	(#511)	25	JAN
ROY McVEAN	(#381)	27	JAN
PAUL NICHOLSON	(#166)	28	JAN
JOHN DANIEL	(#494)	28	JAN
DOUG ANGEL	(#107)	30	JAN
JIM COWLES	(#251)	30	JAN
KEN ARDERN	(#260)	02	FEB
MARK RONEY	(#380)	02	FEB
STEVE CALLINGHAM	(#456)	03	FEB
MATTHEW JAMES	(#467)	14	FEB
JASON BURTON(1)	(#257)	16	FEB
DAVID JONES	(#185)	19	FEB
STEVEN SMITH	(#293)	19	FEB
MARK PENDER	(#441)	20	FEB
BRIAN MORGAN	(#367)	23	FEB
GARY CROSS	(#452)	24	FEB
PETER WILDASH	(#428)	25	FEB
MIKE TAYLOR	(#526)	26	FEB
PAUL HESLOP	(#534)	26	FEB
ALLISTER SPENCE	(#269)	27	FEB
ALAN ANDERSON	(#515)	28	FEB
PHILIP COLLINS	(#525)	28	FEB
MARTIN FISHER	(#402)	01	MAR
MURRAY CRAIG	(#543)	02	MAR
DAVID WEST	(#562)	02	MAR
PHILL BROWNLEY	(#481)	06	MAR
FRANCIS HALLIGAN	(#313)	09	MAR
SANTAY SAHNI	(#465)	11	MAR
RAY WILLIAMSON	(#115)	12	MAR
BARRY NEEDHAM	(#357)	14	MAR
GORDON FOULDS	(#103)	15	MAR
RAY BLACKMOOR	(#136)	17	MAR
STEVE MARTIN	(# 87)	18	MAR

CEREBRO SCOPE

YET MORE FANZINES TO WHET YOUR APPETITE, ALTHOUGH I'M REALLY BEGINNING TO THINK THIS TITLE SHOULD BE SUB-DIVIDED AS THERE ARE SOME GENUINE FANZINES, SOME WHICH RELY SOLEY ON THE CREATIVE JUICES OF ITS CONTRIBUTORS & SOME THAT DO BOTH. ANY, THOSE UNDER-LINED HAVE ALSO BEEN SENDING IN USED STAMPS FOR THE CLUB APPEAL. ONWARD.

ANTI-MATTER FRAGMENTS ≠ 6 from ROB SHARP, 7 CHELTENHAM ROAD, CHORLTON, MANCHESTER M21 1GL. 8 A4 pages. FREE for an SAE. Excellently produced article plugsheet in litho print. Different colour every issue. Lost of news on zines, often with colour repros & columns from the excellent PETE SCOTT, plus ROB's rap, me & The Man from UNCLE (?). You can't go wrong. ROSS COWIN'84

AURA ≠ 1 from Club member SEAN ROBERTS, CEFN MAWR WOOD, MONKSWOOD, NEAR USK, GWENT. 20 A4 pages. ~~DAVE~~ PRICE: 20p + 20p p&p. First issues always shows the inexperience of its editors, where they invariably take too much on themselves rather than attracting contributors (but with so many abor--ted zines I can appseciate that kind of lack of enthusiasm). Despite its rushed appearance, SEAN & DAVE PRICE's zine may be here to stay - dabbling with mysticism & a comic strip - out of the latter came an interesting point about scripting a strip & where it helps if the writer can visualise what he means. They are looking for contributors though & ≠ 2 should be out soon. LAMPREY'84

BLACK & WHITE ≠ 5 from DANIEL SLINGSBY, 25 COTTINGHAM ROAD, HULL HU5 2PP. 80 A5 pages. Price : 50p + 20p p&p. If I had to say which is the best value zine ever, I'd say B&W ≠ 5. Just look at it! Its tipping down one side of the table this rests on! If I had to say which is the best quality cont--ent zine ever & best selection ever agin, then this would be high in the Top 10. The list of names is too great. The list of quality contents is too great. Just BUY THIS. COWIN

CHAIN REACTION ≠ 5 from Club member STEVE WHITAKER, 1a GAMBOLE ROAD, TOOTING BROADWAY, LONDON SW17. 32 A4 pages. Price : 50p + 21p p&p. This issue concludes the number of interviews FRANK PLOWRIGHT made while in America last year, dialogue included of ARCHIE GOODWIN, JO DUFFY, SAL AMWNDOLA, & JIM SHOOTER (the latter is definitely a good counterpoint to what the Yankee zines throw up). These interviews make up the bulk of the zine & they are looking for contributors for the next issue. Despite its good material, its editorial impact seems lost since its divided between 3 editors. HASSAN YUSUF should learn to write less of his own dialogue in the LoC pages;& no HASSAN, I shaln't try a brain trans--plant as suggested: I saw the results of the one that was done on you. If you haven't got CR, get it! LAMPREY'84

CYGNUS ALPHA ≠ 11 from Club member PAUL WEST, 21 NORWICH ROAD, EXWICK, EXETER, DEVON EX4 2DN. 48 A5 pages. Price: £1.00 (inc p&p). Although this pentultimate issue came out in late January, its still topical. PAUL is currently working on his last issue for the time being coming out in JULY. There's an interview with DR WHO producer JOHN NATHAN-TURNER, although the principal focus of this issue is THE PRISONER. CA is always an interesting read & can take a couple hours to digest & highly recommended. LAMPREY'84

DEATH RAYS ≠ 8 from Club member TONY WILLIAMS, 120 GREEN LANE, CLANFIELD, PORTSMOUTH, HANTS PO8 OLG. 20 foolscap pages. Price : Dunno. 40p ?? Actually, truth to tell, this issue was edited by MIKE CHEATER & TONY takes over with ≠ 9 & is part of the SOUTH HANTS SCIENCE FICTION GROUP. I don't think I've been sufficiently dosed on this to totally understand all the trappings of an SFzinedom to judge its standard. What it lacks in artistic exposure it makes up for in SF chat, probably well-worth looking up if you live in the area. LAMPREY'84

DRAGONLORDS ≠ 20/ QUASITS & QUASARS ≠ 10 from Club member MIKE LEWIS, GIBRALTAR POINT, WHITE HILL, TACKLEY, OXON OX5 3AY OR from (Qs & Qs address) DAVE HULKS, 54 SIMMONS DRIVE, ST. ALBANS, HERTS. 48 A5 pages, Price: 60p + 20p p&p. Very much a team-up issue in the vein of BEM/MoI or FA/WC except that this is the first team-up of 2 FRP zines. If you're into Fantasy Gaming, you probably already got this as they're rated ≠ 1 & ≠ 2 respectively in Role Playing Pandumb. If you want to get in you couldn't hope for a better introduction. Friendly, nuts, informative, & if you need to know anything MIKE LEWIS will always be glad to help personally. Try it. RCOWIN'84

FANTASY ADVERTISER ≠ 85 from MARTIN LOCK, 3 MARLOW COURT, BRITANNIA SQUARE, WORCESTER WR1 3DP. 48 A4 pages. Price:50p & 25p p&p. Although now its MARTIN SKIDMORE who is supposed to have editorial reins so I wonder how many of EMLOCK's pseudonomes will survive ?? It features news on what's happen--ing in the comics & SF books which is always very useful plus a sprinkling of articles & features amongst the ads. If you are buying fanzines, this should be amonst your list anyway. LAMPREY'84

FANZINE FANATIQUE from KEITH & ROSEMARY WALKER, 6 VINE STREET, GREAVES, LANCASTER, LANCS LA1 4UF. 15 A4 pages. Price: For trade of fanzine, LoC or SAE. As I keep saying, this really gives reviews of SF & comics - zines currently available OR rather the ones they receive. This issue is actually stapled down one side for a change (have they been reading this column ??) & contains a history of the BRITISH FANTASY SOCIETY. More time & effort would expand its market & make it of more use to both fandoms in this country. LAMPREY'84

INFINITY ≠ 3 (KNOCKABOUT BENEFIT EDITION - a just cause!) from RUSSELL WILLIS, 6 SHUTLER ROAD, BROADSTAIRS, KENT CT10 1HD. 26 A5 pages. Price: 35p + a 1st class stamp. Glossy cover & centrefold poster grace this very well-produced zine. It has a very polished look to it & isn't crowded. Logos & layouts all mesh gloriously with the articles concerned. Mostly reviews of non-super-hero material (which INFINITY specializes on) along with letters, lots of art & the occasional short strip. Great to read. A change from the usual boring superheroics rubbish. ROASTCOWIN'84

THE OWL'S EFFORT ≠ 25 from Club member DICK DOMAR, 9 HIGHLANDS ROAD, WOLVERHAMPTON WV3 8AH. 32 A6 pages. Price: 50p + 16p stamp. Suitable to carry in your pocket to read on a long bus or train ride where you can read other people's views, or even find your own there, on comics & society as a whole. If you want a forum to moan about such things, you'd definitely be at home here. LAMPREY'84

PARADISE LOST ≠ 1 from MARY MILTON, 10 BROOME MANOR LANE, SWINDON, WILTSHIRE SN3 1LX. 36 A5 pages. Price: £1. An entertaining read for DR WHO fans with no reviews but rather interesting articles by such people as MILES BOOY, GRAEME BASSETT, etc.. Brilliant art--work, DAVE LLOYD interviewed, IAN MARTER in perspective, new fiction, DAVE SAUNDERS on DWAS now, JNT's offive. Very promi--sing. PCORNELL'84

SOUNDING THE RITUAL ECHO ≠ 1 from STEVE GREEN, 11 FOX GREEN CRESCENT, ACOCKS GREEN, BIRMINGHAM B27 7SD. 10 A4 pages for a 16p stamp. This is a personalzine. A zine of chatty friendly articles about life itself from the editor's point of view. Not much different to the formula in this case. Great to read when you're bored with normal zines. Associated with SF fandumb so references & talk about SF cons. Also from same address: DOMBLE IN THE WORKS ≠ 1 from LESLEY WARD (also for a 16p stamp). A very similar thing to STRE but written from LESLEY's experiences & point of view to life as a biochem--istry major in Liverpool. Intriguing stuff, huh??RCOWIN

SPEAKEASY ≠ 40 from RICHARD ASHFORD, 245a COLDHARBOUR LANE, BRIXTON, LONDON SW9 8RR. 28 A4 pages. Price: 65p(inc). This newszine comes out on alternative months to FANTASY ADVERTISER so if you really want to be up-to-date, then its advisable to get both, especially as both feature cover repros & stats of comic pages. There's also an indepth interview with TONY BENNETT of KNOCKABOUT COMICS regarding the recent court case - its interesting that this never broke into the major medias, isn't it ?? This zine is developing nicely this last year & worth looking up.LAMPY

VOX STELLARUM ≠ 2 incorpora--ting-≠ 3 from Club member DAVID BARNETT, 15 WESTWOOD TERRACE, LOWER INCE, WIGAN LANCS WN3 4ND. 30 A4 pages, PRICE : 35p + 20p p&p. Although this zine suffers badly in the art department the enthusiasm is definitely there & any contributions would be welcome. Its very informal & friendly though & if it can survive, can only get really better. LAMPREY'84

WORLD OF ANIMATION PREVIEW ISSUE from Club member MIKE LEWIS - see address under DRAGONLORDS. 8 A4 pages. Price: 20p + 16p stamp. The one. The only. The FIRST British animation specializ--ation magazine - fan or pro. If you have always liked cartoons. If you have always wondered what/why/who & how? Then WHY haven't you already bought this ? ≠ 1 out soon. More articles & art wanted though. RCOSCOWIN'84

**ONLY 17 ZINES THIS TIME AROUND. SO IT GOES. QUICK PLUG TIME: We send review copies of CEREBRO to an SF magazine 'IMAGINE' & they never fail to review it (we ever had ≠ 16's cover on show in it). Since this is avail--able on the newsstands, you might want to watch for it.

WE DIDN'T DISTRIBUTE THE EAGLE AWARD FORMS THIS YEAR SIMPLY COS THERE WAS ONLY A 3 WEEK DEADLINE & I'M NOT THAT MUCH OF A MAGICIAN.OF NOTE, BY A POSTAL VOTE, X-[illegible] CAME THIRD IN GROUP CATEGORY.**

THE UNCANNY X-MEN™ CHESS SET

OBTAINABLE ONLY TO MEMBERS OF THE X-MEN FAN CLUB THROUGH THE EDITORIAL ADDRESS

Each chess piece is individually made & even if you don't play chess they can be used for FRP or they make delightful ornaments in your lounge or bedroom. Each model is between 6 to 8 inches high & made of a mixture of resin & fibre-glass. They are painted, if required, in enamels.

MANUFACTURING COSTS ARE RISING SO BUY NOW BEFORE THE PRICES CHANGE!!!

FIGURE.	POSITION	UNPAINTED	PAINTED
NIGHTCRAWLER	KNIGHT	£2.80	£4.80
WOLVERINE (OLD COSTUME)	KNIGHT	£2.80	£4.80
CYCLOPS	ROOK	£3.30	£5.30
MAGNETO	KING	£3.30	£5.30
BEAST	BISHOP	£3.30	£5.30
MYSTIQUE	QUEEN	£2.80	£4.80
PYRO	BISHOP	£3.80	£5.80
AVALANCHE	ROOK	£3.80	£5.80
STORM (OLD COSTUME)	QUEEN	£3.30	£5.30
SENTINEL	PAWN	£2.40	£4.40
JAMIE MADROX	PAWN	£2.40	£4.40
COLOSSUS	ROOK	£4.20	£6.20
PROFESSOR XAVIER (IN WHEELCHAIR)	KING	£3.90	£5.90
ROGUE	BISHOP	£3.39	£5.30
MASTERMIND	KNIGHT	£3.30	£5.30
ARIEL & LOCKHEED	BISHOP	£4.10	£6.10

8 UNPAINTED PAWNS (either SENTINEL or MADROX) will cost you £16.00 + £2.50 p&p

POSTAGE & PACKING ON PIECES & PAWNS GENERALLY ARE: ADD 50p per each item.

ALLOW AT LEAST 28 DAYS FOR DELIVERY OF YOUR ORDER - I am dealing with them as fast as possible.

PHOTOGRAPHS of the models are available on request. Send an SAE (15cm x 15cm min size) if interested. It is within your interest & that of the other members that you return them promptly.

COMING SOON : DESTINY BLOB ANGEL PHOENIX ICEMAN STORM(NEW COSTUME) WOLVERINE(NEW COSTUME)

CHEQUES/POs to be made out to : G.F.WILLMETTS
And sent to : THE X-MEN FAN CLUB
74 GLOUCESTER ROAD
BRIDGWATER
SOMERSET TA6 6EA

WE APOLOGISE FOR ANY DELAYS IN SETTING OUT CHESS PIECE ORDERS AS OUR SCULPTOR HAS BEEN MOVING HOUSE. PLEASE DON'T PANIK! LAMPREY'84

Club Dealer

ADVANCED IMPORTS AVAILABLE - MARVEL, DC, INDEPENDENTS

10% DISCOUNT TO CLUB MEMBERS (PLEASE QUOTE MEMBERSHIP NUMBER)

I NOW RUN A FLOAT SYSTEM SIMILAR TO HOW LAMPREY DOES THE CLUB FLOAT

INTERESTED ??

SEND AN S.A.E. TO ME FOR DETAILS & TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE AFTER :

STEVE COOTE
28 DOWNEY CLOSE
BASILDON
ESSEX

Who Are They Defending?

There are a number of reasons for the DEFENDERS existance.

From MARVEL, the publishers point-of-view - the evolution of the DEFENDERS was a business practicality. Comics, despite their protestations, have never got over their what's selling today than to flag it to death mentality (kung fu/horror/ science fiction). Therefore, since the X-MEN are selling, X-MEN we shall have! Limited series (WOLVERINE, MICRONAUTS/ X-MEN, KITTY & WOLVERINE, MY GRAN & WOLVERINE) &, of course, more regular series.

So we have the NEW MUTANTS (a play on the original title for the X-MEN - the MUTANTS). Then there are the old X-MEN, mostly still languishing in limbo (or dead). None of them it seems have enough fan-support to maintain their own title. (MARVEL had mentioned an ICEMAN series a few years ago & more recently, a mini-series, due out later this year. BEAST had his own strip in the old AMAZING ADVENTURES). The obvious way to get more milage out of the X-MEN name, without going to the X-treme of WOLVERINE'S GIRL-FRIEND...MARIKO, etc, is a group book combining the old trio.

None of the foregoing is supposed to be a put-down of MARVEL, I'm not that naive. I realize that MARVEL is a business first & foremost & exists to make money. The icing on the cake for them (& the life-blood for us) is when they manage to combine comme--rciality with creativity. In other words, the DEFENDERS were created to make money. But do they also manage to satisfy the fans ??

Well so far, in this fan's opinion, the answer is a cautious 'yes'. The NEW DEFENDERS as a book has a lot of potential. The DEFE--NDERS in any incarnation has always had a unique feel to it. The writing has ranged from the off-beat to the bizarre & the villains...Well, if you've been following the book at all, you'll have seen the likes of SCORPIO & LUNATIK. There's no doubt that the DEFENDERS' insanity would not fit in with the military feel of the AVENGERS or the 'family' FANTASTIC FOUR. The DEFENDERS have always been more than heroes - they're people. Remember the HULK's picnic ?? And now, we should see the people behind the mask more than ever.

Three of the DEFENDERS have been friends for years. DEFENDERS is a book where we can see old friends who obviously enjoy being in each others company. The orig--inal DEFENDERS was touted in the early 70s as MARVEL's 'non-team'- a gathering of heroes who got together only when the occasion demanded it. Although this concept gradually changed, the DEFENDERS membership was always more out of duty, than because people want to be DEFENDERS.

So, DEFENDERS could be the book the FANTASTIC FOUR promised to be all those years ago - a story of people who just happen to have super-powers. And, as a bonus, half of this team's membership are mutants - our kind of people. The DEFENDERS needs its own unique personality to survive on the news--tands & comic stores today. Hope--fully, the mixture if old friends, ex-X-MEN & bizarre plot lines will give it just that. We shall see.

The stories themselves have been disappointingly mainstream under DeMATTEIS. The PROFESSOR POWER/ SECRET EMPIRE sequence could fit into any MARVEL TEAM(up) book with disturbing ease. DeMATTEIS was a self-confessed fan of the 1960s X-MEN. By re-writing the original trio he hoped to recreate the 'fun' feeling that characterised the pre-ADAMS X-MEN. And he succeeded to an extent. There has been more fun & humour than any other MARVEL book. The sheer charisma of the BEAST & the way he, ANGEL & ICEMAN play off each other, make for an enjoyable read.

The DEFENDERS are more than 'the ex-X-MEN'. Three of the things that will stop them from being merely an original X-MEN mark 2 are an octogenarian, a goddess of the mind & a chooser of the slain - GARGOYLE, MOONDRAGON & VALKYRIE.

GARGOYLE & VALKYRIE are the two 'pre-X-MEN' DEFENDERS, necessary for the readers to know that this is still the DEFENDERS. The GARGOYLE has always been an interesting character. His age makes him almost an alien in today's society - his values are not ours & nor, I think, would he wish ours to be his. There is quite a lot of room for development in his chara--cter & I hope PETER GILLIS will take advantage of it. GARGOYLE is a friendly old coot who fits in nicely with the lunatice trio, matching BEAST & ICEMAN gag for gag.

VALKYRIE & MOONDRAGON are the two straight women of the group (as is ANGEL, in a manner of speaking, to an extent). A team of clowns would soon grow tiring (THATCHER & Co - please take note!). Were she not fettered by ODIN's headband limiting her power, MOONDRAGON's mind is so powerful that she would not need the group. Her reason for being in the DEFENDERS is because ODIN has sentenced her to be taught humanity with the VALKYRIE. VALKYRIE's motives are less clear, however. Her character lacks definition because successive writers have not known who & why she is & how she works.

None of the DEFENDERS (except MOONDRAGON) are overtly burdned with self-confidence - especially the BEAST. He wants to see himself as the dynamic leader of a super-team & he needs his friends, both old & new, behind him to have the confidence to do this. BEAST puts on a brave show of bravado & jovi--ality because he wants to be accepted, by the world at large & his friends in particular. You'll have noticed he only really became the wise-cracking BEAST he is today after he became blue & furry. The BEAST in particular, & the others too, need each other for comfort & emotional support.

As to why the DEFENDERS are heroes, I'll let them speak their own words (all quoted from DEFEN--DEFENDERS # 125) : -

--FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS, MAYBE IN MY WHOLE LIFE, I FEEL WHOLE AND CONFIDENT. I'M READY TO TAKE ON WHATEVER LIFE DISHES OUT.
THINK YOU COULD SPARE A CUP OR TWO OF THAT CONFIDENCE, BUDDY?

I'VE BEEN A LOT OF THINGS IN MY LIFE AND I'VE DONE A LOT OF THINGS TOO. BUT, NOTHING HAS SATISFIED ME THE WAY SUPER-HEROING HAS. AS A MUTANT, AS A BIO-CHEMIST, AS A MAN-- THAT'S THE ROAD THAT'S SERVED ME BEST!
AND I'M READY TO MAKE A COMMITTMENT.
THE DEFENDERS HAVE BECOME THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN THIS OLD GARGOYLE'S LIFE, HANK. I GUESS IT'S HIGH TIME I MADE IT OFFICIAL!

all (c) MARVEL

So these are the DEFENDERS. But what are they defending ?? From what I've seen so far, the answer has to be themselves. From the ad blurb in MARVEL AGE, villains will come to them. After all, they're DEFENDERS not ATTACKERS. Whether this will be a commercial proposition remains to be seen. The X-MEN, AVENGERS & FANTASTIC FOUR certainly have the cosmic scene sewn up & there are SPIDER-MAN & Co for bank robbers & minor league villains. The CHAMPIONS had the most valid raison d'etre - helping the common man & they had two ex-X-MEN. I just hope the DEFENDERS don't fade to oblivion quite so quickly. Give them a chance.

PAUL HAYWARD '84

OBIT GUARDIAN

JAMES MacDONALD HUDSON is dead. His remains lie scattered on the floor of the WORLD TRADE CENTRE. He is no more. But what did he die for ? Nothing. He didn't save HEATHER from certain death nor did he sacrifice himself for his team-mates. His death seems all too accidental to have any kind of meaning. But, the impact remains: JAMES HUDSON is dead & will remain so.

I, for one, will miss him. Heroes of his like are all too few in the MARVEL UNIVERSE. The reluctant super-heroes - their number depleted by one. But ALPHA FLIGHT # 12 was, in my opinion, mishandled. By announcing well in advance that a nember of ALPHA FLIGHT would do in # 12 turned the book into a morbid lottery as to who was to die or not. The fact that one hero was to die somehow took the sting out of the ending. Took away its shock value. I got the feeling that GUARDIAN's death achieved nothing & for a character that promised so much, its a raw deal.

Despite that, GUARDIAN's death was a work of genius. GUAR--DIAN was the last person I suspected of getting the chop: A natural leader built in the same mould as SCOTT SUMMERS, REED RICHARDS & STEVE ROGERS. His guidance will be sorely missed by ALPHA FLIGHT. His death will create a gap that will be very hard to fill. The next few years will be testing ones for ALPHA FLIGHT. Without GUARDIAN there will be little in the way of order for the team.

There is no doubting that GUARDIAN will be missed, but what of JAMES MacDONALD HUDSON - the man behind the mask. What of HEATHER HUDSON - the woman behind the man. It was unnecessarily cruel that MAC should die in front of HEATHER. Its sensationalism at its worst. Of course, being the wife of a super-hero there is always the risk of such an incident, but it was such an improbility that when it happened it came as a real shock.

Its difficult to really evaluate GUARDIAN. His time in the MARVEL UNIVERSE has been, to say the least, brief. What I can say is that my impression of GUARDIAN is pretty much the same as REED RICHARDS - a born leader, higher intelligence, happy family man. Its hard to evaluate the man after just 12 issues, despite getting more coverage than the rest of ALPHA FLIGHT, his personality is more or less a closed book. But not really knowing him doesn't soften the blow or the consequence of his death. His death certainly was brutal but whoever said super-heroes had to die a clean death ??

As I sit here writing this obituary, I don't think of ALPHA FLIGHT nor do I think of GUARDIAN that much. What I do think of is HEATHER HUDSON & her grief. Its all too easy to kill a character off but the repercussions are not so easy to dismiss. Life in the future for ALPHA FLIGHT & HEATHER HUDSON will be hard & heavy with burden of their loss. I, for one, hope the future will be rosier for them.

I mourn the loss of JAMES MacDONALD HUDSON a.k.a. GUARDIAN. He will be missed.

DARREN P. WHEELER'84

OBIT UNUS

Italian-born ANGELO UNUSICONE, then as a naturalised American named-changed to GUNTHER BAIN was better known as UNUS THE UNTOUCHABLE is dead. This man was gifted or cursed with the mutant ability to produce a self-protecting force field around his body. Ever since he became aware of this ability, UNUS used it for his own personal gain. Initially as a fairground wrestler he lived upto his name as 'untouc--hable' & came to the attention of MAGNETO as a possible recruit to the BROTHERHOOD OF EVIL MUTANTS at that time. To prove himself, UNUS took on the X-MEN & fought them to a stand-off. The BEAST intensified UNUS' force field to the point the wrestler was trapped by his own power & unable to eat or drink. Reversal of this effect occured only when UNUS was warned to stay clear of MAGNETO - who himself had lost interest after UNUS' defeat anyway - & to stay on the straight & narrow.

In yet another wrestling match, UNUS met another equally unstopable opponent, FRED J. DUKES otherwise known as the BLOB. This entanglement was arranged by the alien LUCIFER to get them to act as bank-robbers to draw out the X-MEN. Both mutants were scared off & later recruited by FACTOR THREE - an organisation which intended world domination by getting the major nations to attack each other with nuclear weapons, although secretly, its leader, the MUTANT MASTER, in truth an alien was making it ready for his own species to conquer. When the evil mutants rebelled when the CHANGELING showed that they had been dupped, thoughts of world conquest no longer worried UNUS.

For a period he drifted back into wrestling & ocassion--ally would indulge in some criminal activity. Where possible he avoided confrontation with any of the super-heroes which roamed the cities. His mode of operation relied on his mutant ability & a baseball bat.

Periodically UNUS' force field would reach the level which the BEAST once induced. It was the intervention of the HULK on one such occasion which brought the field back under control. The last suth occasion, the gamma monster was not present & a call for his old friend, the BLOB, came too late to relieve him of his predictament. Exhausted through lack of food & drink for several days, his force screen eventually prevented air from filtering in & finally, he died.

Was this man truly a villain at heart ? Was his crimes merely a stigma due to his mutant status ? Earlier dreams of world conquest were quickly aborted when he realized the world it would leave would not be a healthy one. All UNUS really wanted was his own private niche. His technique of obtaining it made him a criminal, but not one of any truly violent nature.

Some might say UNUS reaped his own just reward for abusing his mutant gift. Some may pity him for such an ignoble death. We only saw his criminal activities. Only with his death & through the BLOB's words, did we discover something important about his character. UNUS accepted the BLOB not as another freak, but as a friend. The fact they were both mutants was irrevalent.

UNUS THE UNTOUCHABLE could not be said to have led a particularly good life, but can it be said that in his heart of hearts that he was totally evil when he could offer compassion & friendship to such a figure as the BLOB where most of humanity could not ??

UNUS THE UNTOUCHABLE - Rest In Peace.

JON CRANE'84

SURVEY'84

Yep. We've done another one. This time the SURVEY was done as a questionaire which was sent out to the Club membership with CEREBRO # 19, of which we had 120 returned by the deadline for analysis & about a half dozen or so after, which I've treated as 'infor--mation only' (not wasted, just noted). As to the results, well you can read them below, plus any comments I throw in along the way. Breaking down the information into workable data was done by FIONA JEROME & you humble editor is going to make some sense of it all.

SECTION : 1 : PERSONAL

1. HOW OLD ARE YOU ? Here, we expected a diverse answer. I could probably have worked it out from all your birthdates, but for the purposes of the SURVEY we wanted to know the age range of those taking part. The youngest was 12 & the oldest 34 - neither of which will I give the names away. The average age was 20.3 years, which shows we're not exactly a teen-age fan club by any means.

2. WHAT IS YOUR OCCUPATION ? C'mon, be serious. Can you honestly expect us to make sense of this. There were no noticable trends in terms of jobs, many of you are still attending places of education & there are not so many umemployed as I feared.

3. HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN READING COMICS ? BARRY HOLLAND claims the most at 24 years (what did you do in the 7 years you weren't, BARRY ??) & JULIE BURGESS the least at 1½ years. Everybody else was spread between them.

4. DO YOU SMOKE ? Nice to see so few of you suck the dreaded weed. 12 do, 109 don't.

5. DC YOU DRINK ALCHOLIC BEVERAGES REGULARLY ? 72 don't, 40 do & 3 pass - pass what, is anobher question. I wonder if the results of the last two questions are an indication that you'd rather spend your money on comics ??

6. DO YOU DRIVE ? 76 don't, 44 do & 1 actually passed (how can anyone be not sure about that ??).

7. DO YOU PLAY WITH A RUBBER DUCK IN THE BATH ? 96 don't, 16 admit they do & 9 passed. For the record I used to have mini-sub battles when I was a youngs--ter. Some of the members have frogs, sharks & row--boats (wouldn't the latter have problems with the oars hitting the side of the bath ??).

8. DO YOU HAVE A VIDEO RECORDER ? 58 do & 63 don't. 16 different brand names were noted with PANASONIC the most used. Are any of you members who do be interested in some sort of newsheet being run so you can get to know each other to swop information. Let me know if interested & include an SAE & I'll get something worked out if there is enough support.

9. DC YOU HAVE A COMPUTER ? 89 don't & 32 do. The most frequently used machine was the ZS SPECTRUM with 9 other brands used. Although the support for this is likely to be less, I'll apply the same as the answer for question 8 (mark SAE in left hand corner 'COMP--UTER' or 'VIDEO' pending interest).

10. DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF TO HAVE KNOBBLY KNEES ? 90 don't, 23 do & 8 passed (probably cos their mirrors stop at the waist, right ??).

11. HAVE YOU PERSUADED FRIENDS TO READ COMICS ? 71 have & 50 have not. Perhaps I should supplement that question & ask the 71 to persuade their friends to join the Club as well.

12. DC YOU LIKE BERNARD BRESSLAW ? 47 do, 34 don't & 37 passed - mainly cos they don't know who he is or haven't been paying close attention to CEREBROSCOPE. For the record, ex-SHAKESPERIAN COMPANY actor BERNIE BRESSLAW has been a frequent star of the CARRY ON films over the years & you'd have seen him many times in the TV compilations.

13. DO YOU THINK IT FAIR FOR US TO ASK THIS SORT OF QUESTION ? (an ambiguous question to say the least, I mean: Which question or the entire section ??) Anyway, 62 do, 49 don't & 10 passed (Do you think these people would become 'DON'T KNOWS' in nationwide surveys ??).

From the above, the 'average' Club member doesn't smoke or drink, but is likely to have a video recorder instead of a computer & not to have knobbly knees.

SECTION : 2 : INTERESTS

1. DO YOU BELONG TO ANY OTHER FAN CLUB ? 48 do, of which they are divided into 32 other clubs. We broke this down to 12 clubs related to film & TV, 10 music orientated & 3 related to comics. Top of the list was the DR. WHO APPRECIATION SOCIETY. I expect similar totals would be obtained if other clubs did a similar Survey. Its inter--esting to note that many of these clubs aren't the fan partis--cipation sort, merely part of the promotional vehicle for a partic--ular product, band or show.

2. DO YOU ENJOY RECEIVING LETTERS? 111 do, 8 don't & 2 passed.

3. DO YOU LIKE SENDING LETTERS ? 81 do, 34 don't & 6 passed. Taking the last two questions together, I hope to hear there's an increase in the correspondence between the membership.

4. DO YOU COLLECT ANYTHING OTHER THAN COMICS ? We had 224 entries which divided into 85 categories. This broke down into 38 who colle--cted records, 33 into books, 13 into SF/fantasy items & 9 on videos.

5. DO YOU PLAY FANTASY RCLE PLAY--ING GAMES ? 78 don't, 42 do & 1 even passed. The bias seems to be against the activity, but with the coming of the X-MEN FRPG in the shops shortly, I have a feeling this is likely to change.

6. WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT FAVOURITE TV PROGRAMME ? 112 entries giving 41 programmes & yet 9 still passed. 26 shows were American & 25 British. Overall top was DR.WHO with 19.8% of the votes. Second was HILL ST. BLUES at 7.4%.

7. WHAT IS YOUR LEAST FAVOURITE TV PROGRAMME ? 93 entries giving 46 programmes with 28 passing (here I could understand that. I mean unless you are a sadist or lazy you do tend to avoid programmes you don't like). There were 30 British & 23 American. Top of the list was CROSSROADS with 14.1%, 32% got 6.6% & DALLAS 5%.

8. WHAT ADVERTS DO YOU REALLY LIKE? 89 entries with 56 categories with 32 passing. 15 were drink related, 5 food orientated & 26 miscellaneous. Top of the list was the HOLSTEN PILS & the HEINIKEN ads with 4.1% each. When you relate that to how few of us actually drink, then I'd suspect its the quality of the ad that attracts not the actual product.

9. WHAT ADVERT DO YOU REALLY DISLIKE ? 77 entries giving 46 categories with 44 passes. 9 were food orientated, 3 were drink related & 24 miscellaneous. Top were the nappy ads with 6.6%, then ANADIN with 4.1% (just watching them gives me a headache) & the one with the 'new system' PERSIL at 3.3%.

10. WHICH TV SERIES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE REPEATED ? 102 entries with 53 categories & 19 passes. Of these 35 were ITV shows & 18 BBC, 39 British & 14 American. From the top was DR. WHO with 12.4%, STAR TREK with 8.3% (which is on again soon anyway) & BLAKE'S 7 with 5.8%. With the current state of CHANNEL 4 anything is likely for the ITV shows. Pers--onally, I'd love to see UFO again & perhaps SEARCH CONTROL.

11. WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF FILM DO YOU LIKE ? 111 entries with 252 passes. I think I'll just give the breakdown for these in preferenee order :-

1 - a. SPACE OPERA
2 - g. FUTURIST SF
3 - l. COMEDY
4 - b. FANTASY
5 - f. CONTEMPORARY SF
6 - p. SPY
7 - n. SPAGHETTI WESTERNS
8 - d. 50s SF
9 - c. OLD SF
10 - e. HG WELL./JULES VERNE TYPE
11 - h. GOLDEN TURKEYS
11 - j. WAR
13 - i. MUSICALS
14 - m. WESTERNS
15 - o. ADVENTURE
16 - q. CONTEMPORARY DRAMA
17 - k. ROMANCE/DRAMA

On choices we neglected to include, HORROR was the highest (still can't figure how we missed that one), then FOREIGN & DISNEY with some 15 other choices.

12. DO YOU FOLLOW THE WORK OF A PARTICULAR DIRECTOR ? 111 entries with 252 passes. STEVEN SPIELBERG was top with 5.2%, GEORGE LUCAS with 3.3%, JOHN CARPENTER with 2.5% & jointly RIDLEY SCOTT & FRANCIS COPPOLA at 1.7%

13. DO YOU FOLLOW THE FILMS OF A PARTICULAR ACTOR/ACTRESS ? 156 entries with 207 passes. 52 favoured actors, 104 presumably favoured the actresses. However this did not reflect on the outcome as CLINT EASTWOOD had 5.8%, HARRISON FORD 5.2%, CHARLES BRONSON with PETER CUSHING jointly with 1.4%.

14. WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE FILM ? 104 entries with 17 passes of which 35 choices were SF/HORROR/FANTASY. Top was BLADERUNNER with 6.6%, STAR WARS 5%, RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK 4.1%, RETURN OF THE JEDI & ESCAPE FROM NEW YORK jointly at 3.3%.

15. WHAT WAS THE LAST BOOK THAT YOU READ ? 116 entries with 5 passes with a 41 orientation towards SF/HORROR/FANTASY. The only thing this showed was that you all do read books - unfortunately not all the same ones.

16. DID YOU WANT TO OR WERE FORCED ? 96 wanted, 8 had to, 10 did both & 7 passed.

17. WHAT KIND OF BOOKS DO YOU ENJOY READING ?
The results of this wasn't totally unexpected : -

1 - c. SF
2 - d. FANTASY
3 - p. FILM & SF TIE-INS
4 - e. HEROIC FANTASY
5 - f. HORROR
6 - n. COMEDY
7 - l. NON-FICTION
8 - a. SPY
9 - q. BIOGRAPHY
10 - b. CRIME
10 - k. POETRY
12 - j. CLASSICS
13 - g. ADVENTURE
14 - m. DRAMA
15 - o. ANIMAL
16 - h. WAR
17 - i. WESTERN

There were 15 choices we neglected, mostly connected with history & non-fiction & cereal packets.

18. WHAT TYPES OF MUSIC DO YOU LIKE ? With the membership spread across the country we expected quite a diverse range, not to mention disagreement on our examples. Some of the things you would like to do to certain bands could get us all locked up. Wouldn't it be boring if we all liked the same stuff continually??

1 - o. POP
2 - m. FILM & TV TIE-IN
3 - f. COMEDY
3 - g. INSTRUMENTAL
5 - s. TWO TONE
6 - k. NEW ROMANTIC
6 - l. DISCO
8 - e. REGGAE
9 - q. SOUL
10 - c. ROCK'N'ROLL
10 - n. PSYCHEDELIA
12 - i. NEW WAVE
12 - p. EUROROCK
14 - b. HARD ROCK
15 - a. HEAVY METAL
16 - t. POST PUNK (mailbag only??)
17 - j. JAZZ FUNK
18 - u. COUNTRY & WESTERN
19 - d. ROCKABILLY
20 - h. SEGUEUE
21 - r. NORTHERN SOUL

There were 16 neglected choices notably in JAZZ & female vocalists

19. WHO IS YOUR FAVOURITE BAND ? 106 entries with 15 passes which gave some 69 categories. Breaking this down was no easy task. I think there was some confusion as to whether soloists could be included in this. Still, at a joint 4.1% was the BEATLES & the POLICE, with joint runners-up being ELO/QUEEN/RUSH with 3.3%

20. WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE TRACK ? (at least no one thought we were discussing sport) 99 entries with 22 passes & 95 categories. No way could anything be worked out from that, other than it indicated a similar trend in taste to the information above.

21. DO YOU LIKE DR. WHO ? 95 do, 17 don't, 4 sometimes & 2 pass.

22. WHO IS YOUR FAVOURITE DR.WHO VILLAIN ? 94 entries with 27 passes. Top came the MASTER with 29.8%, then the DALEKS with 20.7% & the CYBERMEN at 17.4%

23. WHO IS YOUR FAVOURITE DR ? (Again, no one said their local GP) Breakdown as follows :

1 - JON PERTWEE	(29.8%)
2 - TOM BAKER	(25.6%)
3 - PATRICK TROUGHTON	(12.4%)
4 - PETER DAVIDSON	(11.6%)
5 - WILLIAM HARTNELL	(5.0%)
6 - COLIN BAKER	(0.8%)

Its interesting to note that JON PERTWEE was the DOCTOR the least length of time & yet made the biggest impact in the above.

24. WHICH IS YOUR FAVOURITE DR WHO COMPANION ? 91 entries with 30 passes. Sheesh!

1 - TEGAN	(16.5%)
2 - SARAH-JANE SMITH	(14.9%)
3 - LEELA	(8.3%)
4 - K-9	(7.4%)
5 - JO GRANT	(5.0%)

Of the companions, 10 were female, 4 male & 2 other (that's where the TARDIS & K-9 come in). I wouldn't actually consider the BRIGADIER a companion myself, by the way.

25. DO YOU LIKE GERRY ANDERSON SHOWS ? 83 do, 28 don't & 9 passed.

26. WHAT ARE YOUR FAVOURITE ANDERSON SHOWS ? 230 entries with 133 passes. Breakdown as follows:-

1 - THUNDERBIRDS	(18.7%)
2 - CAP. SCARLET	(10.7%)
3 - UFO	(8.5%)
4 - STINGRAY	(7.7%)
5 - TERRAHAWKS	(6.1%)
6 - SPACE: 1999	(5.3%)
7 - FIREBALL XL-5	(3.0%)
8 - JOE 90	(2.6%)
9 - SUPERCAR	(0.3%)
9 - TORCHY	(0.3%)

Before anyone asks, the top 4 are my favourites, with UFO at my top. Its a pity that CAPTAIN SCARLET can't be reshown because of the fear of kids imitating him, but it could always be put on late at night when certain UFO episodes were.

27. WHO IS YOUR FAVOURITE ANDERSON CHARACTER ? 97 entries with 75 passes, 22 all told with 16 male & 6 female.

CAPTAIN SCARLET	(14.1%)
PARKER	(7.4%)
LADY PENELOPE/PHONES/MARINA	each had 3.3%

28. WHO IS YOUR FAVOURITE ANDERSON VILLAIN ? 91 entries with 70 passes: -

CAPTAIN BLACK	(13.2%)
ZELDA/MYSTEROM (joint)	(5.5%)
TITAN	(4.1%)
THE HOOD	(3.3%)

I think the last two questions speak for themselves.

From this section, the 'average' Club member might belong to another fan club, both writes & sends letters, watches a lot of television & films, reads a wide selection of books, likes DR. WHO & will occasionally indulge in the odd GERRY ANDERSON show. Am I stricking anyone in particular yet ??

SECTION : 3 : X-MEN & THE CLUB

1. DO YOU STILL FIND THE X-MEN ENTERTAINING ? 105 do & 18 don't...You can't please all the people all the time.

2. WHO ARE YOUR CURRENT FAVOURITE X-MEN ? 311 entries with 42 pass/void.

1 - WOLVERINE	(24.5%)
2 - NIGHTCRAWLER	(14.9%)
3 - STORM	(14.3%)
3 - ROGUE	(14.3%)
5 - ARIEL	(8.0%)
6 - COLOSSUS	(5.8%)
7 - CYCLOPS	(5.2%)
8 - PROFESSOR X	(1.4%)

I'm amazed at the rapid rise in popularity of ROGUE.

3. WHO ARE YOUR FAVOURITE X-MEN CURRENTLY NOT IN THE TEAM ? 309 entries with 57 passes.

1 - BEAST	(17.8%)
2 - ANGEL	(13.9%)
3 - ICEMAN	(10.7%)
4 - CYCLOPS	(9.4%)
5 - BANSHEE	(9.1%)
6 - PHOENIX	(8.3%)
7 - HAVOK	(7.7%)
8 - POLARIS	(5.0%)
9 - GUNFIRE	(2.9%)
10 - MADROX	(1.4%)
11 - THUNDERBIRD	(0.7%)
12 - PETTO	(0.3%)

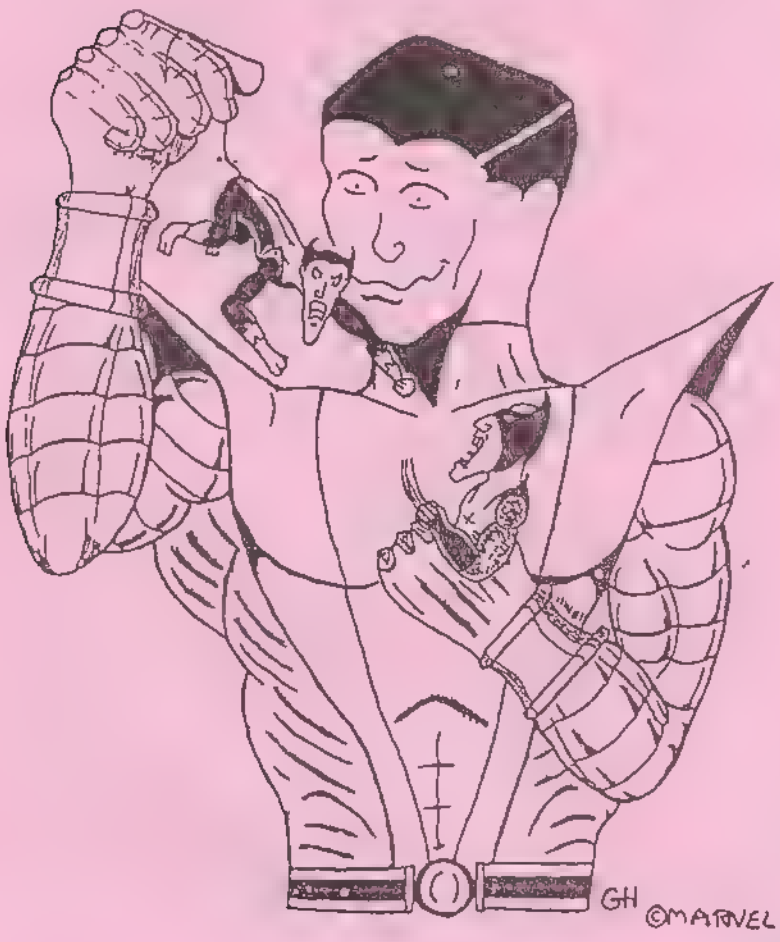
4. WHO ARE YOUR FAVOURITE X-VILLAINS ? 311 entries with 54 passes. Below are the top listings from a choice of 37 characters : -

1 - MAGNETO	(25.7%)
2 - SENTINELS	(7.7%)
2 - KILLPOD CLUB	(7.7%)
4 - ARCADY	(5.8%)
5 - MYSTIQUE	(5.0%)
6 - JUGGERNAUT	(3.6%)
7 - THE BROOD	(3.3%)
8 - NEW BROTHERHOOD	(3.0%)
9 - DARK PHOENIX	(2.6%)

Pretty predictable choice of villains. I only hope that CLARECOT doesn't use this as an indication to use them too frequently as this could tend to remove their attraction I think.

5. DO YOU BUY OR NOT YOU DON'T NORMALLY BUY IT IF THE X-MEN APPEAR IN IT ? 69 do, 42 don't.

6. DO YOU LIKE CLARECOT'S GUESTING IN OTHER BOOKS, IT



GENERAL ? 46 sometimes, 31 do, 20 not often, 7 not bothered, 4 no & 3 passed. If you examine these answers from heir positive & nega--tive traits I would say the tendency is towar' the former but pending on the subject choice, not to mention w-iters & artists.

7. WHICH COMIC WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THE X-MEN APPEAR as GUESTS IN? 94 entries with 27 passes - this broken down gave a choice of 15 to--wards MARVEL, 5 to DC & 7 other choices (TWINKLE ?? MANDY ?? BEANO??) The top however were :

ALPHA FLIGHT	(19.0%)
AVENGERS	(12.4%)
FANTASTIC FOUR	(7.4%)
DEFENDERS/NEW MUTANTS	(5.0%)-joint

As to ALPHA FLIGHT, I don't know about you but I'd be rather curious to see both CLAREMONT & BYRNE co-plot such a story with each of them supplying their own team's dialogue.

8. IF YOU'VE SEEN THE AMERICAN CARTOON SERIES LIKE SPIDER-MAN/ WOMAN, FF, ETC, WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THE X-MEN TREATED IN A SIMILAR MANNER ? 32 said yes, 17 would not, 14 wouldn't be bothered & 4 passed. I think really, one has to speculate at the audiance such a cartoon series is aimed at. With a TV market its obviously going to get more box-watchers than comic readers which could lead the former into becoming the latter. The major problem that came out of the SURVEY was how such a series would be treated. With a 20 year history that the X-MEN has it would have great difficulty in encapsulate it in its entirity. We're likely to have a school for mutants chucked at us rather than a super-team warding off evil (or rather the accent will be on the former heading towards the latter). In that respect, I'd sooner think of them as another team called the X-MEN & not the same as the comic book.

9. DO YOU LIKE STORM'S MOHICAN (or MOHAWK as one member put it) HAIRCUT ? 85 said yes, 30 said no & 16 passed. I think that speaks plainly enough for everyone.

10. SHOULD THE NEW MUTANTS GET SOME REAL SCHOOLING ? 62 said yes, 19 said no, 26 said only if they don't have adventures & 14 passed. Overall, about 50/50. The major problem with the NEW MUTANTS is in selling a book where we watch them issue after issue doing lessons - especially for those going to school, as you've been doing that all day. I got the impression that their adventures should be tempered with education (or a show of them sitting at a desk & being taught just to acknowledge that they are students).

11. WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE MORE OF THE MUIR ISLE MOB ? 88 said yes, 29 weren't bothered, 3 said no & 1 passed. Dear CHRIS, take note of this rather favourable response, we really would like to see what's happening to MOIRA, SEAN, JAMIE, HAVOK & POLARIS occasionally.

12. WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THE RETURN OF DAVAN SHAKARI? 48 said yes, 42 said no & 31 passed - mainly cos they didn't know who he was. Does the name 'ERIC THE RED' spring any memories. This was the alias that DAVAN SHAKARI of the SHI'AR IMPERIAL INTELLIGENCE used when he took on the new X-MEN to stall & prevent them meet--ing LILANDRA NERAMANI back in # 97 & was last seen in # 107 back in the Empire. Its questionable if LILANDRA would have imprisoned him when she became MAJESTRIX, but I can certainly see DEATHBIRD ultilising him, can't you, especially as it appears he does possess certain innate abilities.

13. WOULD YOU LIKE DRAGONFLY TO RETURN ? 47 said yes, 43 said no & 31 passed - cos they didn't know who she was.....Now, where have I typed that before ?? OK... DRAGONFLY was the only female member of the ANTI-[illegible] who fought the X-MEN in # 94-95. She was later impris--oned on MUIR ISLAND & when MAGNETO escaped in # 104 she also escaped from her cell. That's the last we've seen of her & its a loose-end going back some 9 years. She's another character with mesmersing abilities, something CHRIS has shown to be a very effective power through both MASTERMIND & MESMERO, & a possible grudge. For those of you interested, both SHAKARI / DRAGONFLY's visuals are displayed on this page.

14. DO YOU COLLECT X-MEN BACK-ISSUES ? 88 said yes, 29 said no & 4 passed. Ah....Addiction rules!!

15. ARE OUR SUBSCRIPTIONS REASONABLE ? NO!! 111 said yes, 4 no (mainly regarding foreign rates which I'm looking into) & 6 passed. There was also some specul--ation as to whether I was going to alter it. I've been doing some budgeting recently & I've made a few adjustments as you've already spotted on the editorial page. I've scrapped the junior rate simply because it caused confusion in fanzine review columns. They either printed the senior rate or ignored it. To keep the sub at £4.50, for the time being, I've reduced the number of issues you receive in future from 6 to 5. If you work out the cover price plus postage per each issue, it'll still be cheaper than buying each issue as it comes out. All previous subs being honoured. Subscription rates are always a big headache so I hope this change won't advertly change your minds.

16. ARE YOU INTIMIDATED WHEN SENDING SUBMISSIONS INTO CEREBRO ? 76 said no, 24 said a little, 10 said a lot & 11 passed. Mind you, whether you send any or not looks immaterial to the actual question, at least you'll write if you want to.

17. ARE YOU INTIMIDATED WHEN SENDING SUBMISSIONS TO OTHER FANZINES ? Hope other fanzine editors pay attention to this: 67 said no, 14 said a little, 9 said a lot & 31 passed (largely cos they don't read or buy them). Although the answers to this & question 16 are very similar, despite the higher pass rate here, it does make me wonder why there aren't more contributors in other fanzines...Or maybe its because fan-editors don't solicit material, you don't send them any or they setting too high a standard & relying on only a few people.??

18. DO YOU THINK THIS SURVEY IS WORTHWHILE ? 104 said yes, 13 said no & 4 passed. From those who said yes, I got the impression that they wanted to know what other members thought. Of those who said no, they wondered what it would achieve. Well, it gives [illegible] general idea of trends within the Club & helps [illegible] think along certain directions where future planning is concerned. Don't expect instant results but it all really does help.

19. IS YOUR CLUB LEADER OVERWORKED ? 68 said yes, 37 said no & 15 passed. There were several giggles added to some of the no replies too. This question came about as mere speculation as to what you thought I was upto between typing CEREBROs (I write letters, naturally, combined with other creative pursuits). At least, no one said I was slacking on the job.

20. ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR LONG-RUNNING SERIES IN CEREBRO?? Lets give the breakdowns & comments together: -

10 - VILLAIN PROFILES - like INDEX presumably, yes ??
4 - CONTINUOS FICTION - X-motor-cars, huh ??
3 - ARTIST PROFILES - STEVE WHITAKER, where are you??
3 - PAST ISSUE REVIEWS - everyone does that.
3 - MEMBER PROFILES - I'm looking into.
3 - MY FAVOURITE COMIC - everyone does that.
3 - WRITER PROFILES - any volunteers ??
2 - BACK ISSUE PRICE GUIDES - that's too subjective.

NEAR ME X-MEN!
I AM FIRE! AND LIFE INCARNATE! NOW AND FOREVER--
NO LONGER AM I THE WOMAN YOU KNEW!
--I AM Phoenix!
I BET SHE DRINKS CARLING BLACK LABEL!
YOU ask her

(c) MARVEL for characters.
(c) DANNY REDDEN for idea
Do CARLING want it mentioned for free publicity ??

Other choices included: PROFILES OF OTHER MUTANTS (I might consider if I hear enough demand), OLD X-MEN FEATURE, X-ENCYCLOPEDIA, X-JOKES (if you send any in, make them more clever than corny or smutty,huh ??) QUIZES, INTERVIEWS, POSTER/CENTRE--FOLD (I thought some of the packages covered this angle ??), POWER LISTING (230 volts in this country). Seriously though, I'll see what I can do. Where the INDEX is concerned, anything is possible. I'd like to include a SUPPORTING CAST INDEX - covering characters from both the old & new X-MEN, which if it works out should pres--ent drawing opportunities for the ARTISTS POOL as well. Where the INDEX is concerned, its likely we'll cover everyone eventually.
21. ANY MEMBER OF THE ARTIST POOL YOU'D LIKE TO SEE TRY A COVER ? Now, I'd rather keep the result of this to myself, simply because I don't want to be blackmailed & also I tend to choose the artist to match the subject matter, subject to his/her availability & whether I think they are capable of doing a suitable composition. We ignored those that voted for themselves & those who don't draw anyway & it still left 14 members. Overall, apart from the top 3, there was little to choose from. I do have a guideline though & I hope you approve my decision to keep mum from above points.
22. ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A TEAM BEING DRAWN FROM X-MEN ? 62 said yes, 34 said no & 25 passed. If you combine negative with apathy its still about 50/50. I'll look into it & see how many of the members who contributed characters are still in the Club & how the votes tallied to them & give some sort of result next issue.
23. ARE YOU INTERESTED IN JOINING THE X-AP ? 25 said yes, 69 said no & 27 passed. We thought there was a great deal of confusion in the replies here. As a reminder, the X-AP is the Club's own APA - Amateur Press Association. Unlike most APAs, our system is that rather than do your own printing on the 20 or so copies required, you send us your master copies & money & we print them for you (it does work out cheaper this way) & redistribute so that you see yourself & the other contributors as well. This is a good way of getting much needed experience of being your own editor & also to voice & hear other member's views without this editor editing away. For those 25 who said yes & those who may now feel inspired should send an SAE in an envelope marked 'X-AP' in the left-hand corner to its current central mailer, GERARD KINGDON, 5 PURCELL MANSIONS, QUEEN'S CLUB GARDEN, LONDON W14 9TP for details & deadline.
24. IF THE CLUB PRODUCED A BADGE WOULD YOU PREFER....Before I give the breakdown there were 111 entries & 10 passes.
42 - CLUB LOGO
30 - GROUP PICTURE
14 - SINGLE FACE (of whom though ??)
11 - SINGLE FIGURE (ditto)
4 - SINGLE FIGURE/LOGO
4 - GROUP PICTURE/LOGO
3 - SINGLE FACE/LOGO
3 - ANY OF THE ABOVE
Top choice seems practical. Those inter--ested in doing a design send in an SAE for printing details & give an idea of what you have in mind.
25. ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BUYING LETTER--HEADED PAPER ? 66 said no, 44 said yes & 10 passed. This could still be done on a limited scale. If you're interested in having your own individualised letter-paper with your own address & piece of art on it, send in an SAE to me with what you're after & I'll quote a price. Remember, its cheaper in quantity.
26. ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PARTISCIPATING IN THIS YEAR'S OUTING ? 61 said yes, 45 said no & 11 passed. You can't loose on a question like this. Don't forget to send in your SAEs for details OK.
27. ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN A POSTAL GAME OF CHESS TOURNAMENT AMONGST THE MEMBERSHIP ? 105 said no, 15 yes & 1 passed. Again, this isn't the kind of thing can be influenced badly by a negative vote. 45 can still produce many games. If you'd care to send in an SAE marked 'CHESS' in the right hand corner & how you compare yourself as a player, I'll send back the name of your opponent. If you didn't take part in the SURVEY but still want to take part, this applied to you as well. Postal Chess is unique in that you do have plenty of time to consider your moves so its good for players of all standards so don't be put off if you don't think you're a good player (you never will be if you don't play anyway).
28. WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO BE PUT ON A LIST TO WRITE LETTERS TO SICK MEMBERSTO CHEER THEM UP ? 59 said no, 51 said yes & 12 passed.
29. IF YOU WERE A SICK MEMBER WOULD YOU WELCOME SUCH LETTERS ?
a. 71 would welcome them
36 said they wouldn't
14 passed
b. 78 said they would reply to them
30 said they wouldn't (bit rude ??)
13 passed
Getting this little 'operation' together could look difficult so bear with me. For those who are hospitalized or at home on a sick-bed the only way I'm going to know if you're ill is if you write in to me. For those who want to know who they have to write to, it would be easier to leave an SAE with me so I can send out particulars to you. Both parties should ensure that I have a list of particulars like interests & tastes so I can match you up. Those who are ill should make it plain how many correspondents they can cope with (you may want me to send you some of these SAEs so you can write out first if you think it'll help pass the time away - in that case, send an SAE). This system is bound to have a few 'bones' to iron out, so I'll give it a year to sort itself out. It all depends on those who feel they should like to use such a system when they are ill or on the road to recovery - a cheery letter can make the whole day seem brighter.
30. DO YOU MEET OTHER MEMBERS IN YOUR O.W AREA ? 93 said no, 25 said yes & 3 passed.
31. DO YOU MEET OTHER MEMBERS OUT OF YOUR AREA ? 89 said no, 30 said yes & 1 passed. I think next time I should ask if you ever write letters in the content of these last two questions. The Club can be many things. I feel not only should it be a means to talk about the X-MEN but also a means to allow some sort of communication so that you can write to other members with similar interests. Don't wait for someone to write to you, take the initia--tive & do it first (send an SAE if you want them to feel guilty & have to reply back$).

From this section, the 'average' Club member passionately loves the X-MEN, likes WOLVERINE, NIGHTCRAWLER, STORM & ROGUE the most, probably reads the DEFENDERS on the quiet because it features BEAST, ANGEL & ICEMAN, like MAGNETO, may but cross-over appearances of the X-MEN & would like to see our merry mutants appear in ALPHA FLIGHT. They also would like to see an X-MEN cartoon series & like STORM's haircut & want to see the NEW MUTANTS do some lessons & have a look at the MUIR ISLE MOB. Either they don't have a complete collection of X-MEN (but are looking) or aren't particularly interested in seeing SHAKARI &/or DRACON--FLY in coming back has yet to be decided

- let it never be said that the membership isn't decisive in their decisions. They may get around to contributing sometime & don't think I'm an ogre but possibly overworked (write in, I've got 2 arms & as I say, I'm totally obliged to SAEs anyway) & that's why they haven't done so yet. They'd like to see something done with the X-AMS & might get into X-AP just to see what all the fuss is about. A badge of recognition is totally opposite to the fact that they don't really meet their fellow members - we're paraphern--alia freaks, right ?? - but would prefer it to decorated notepaper & would write to cheer up sick members (I said sick, not those with kinky perversions). Am I drawing a picture of you by any chance ?? Onward....

SECTION : 4 : COMICS

1. DID YOU START READING COMICS DURING A PERIOD OF ENFORCED INACTIVITY ? 103 said no, 14 said yes & 4 passed. I think this was one of the questions I wish I had the foresight to have reworded. is Would your interest in comics been less intense had you not been ill at some time in your life & had to rely on comics for company ?? Would that have gotten a different responce ?? Let me know, huh ??

2. ARE YOU ABLE TO GET AMERICAN COMICS FROM A LOCAL NEWSAGENT ? 86 said yes, 30 said no & 4 passed. C'mon, you can hardly pass on a question like this. I'm interested by these who said no though. Do you ever look or do you rely totally on postal imports ?? For those who said yes, may I guess that your newsagents on the whole stock DC in preference to MARVEL ?? Since they are distributed on the whole by the same distributor, DAVID GOLD, can I suggest that if they don't have MARVEL you ask if they can get them. I have this nagging suspicion that the newsagents don't believe anyone will buy them. Get them to stock them & prove them wrong.

3. DO YOU BUY COMICS ON IMPORT ? 93 said yes, 26 said no & 2 passed. Well, if you track down the INDEPENDENT companies this is prob--ably essential anyway, as well as for mini-series & other non-distributeds. I'd like to think that this is an indication that our tastes aren't totally dominated by MARVEL or possibly by DC, contrary to what those outside of the Club might think. This is held out by the answers to the following questions (so I peaked. Wouldn't you ??).

4. WHAT DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE NUMBER OF COMICS ON THE MARKET ? 56 said enough, 44 too many, 19 too few & 5 (you guessed it) passed. Whether the response to this is because you think the glut will damage the industry as a whole or whether you think there's enough to pull your own personal tastes isn't that clear.

5. WHICH OF THESE DO YOU BUY THE MOST:

82 - MARVEL	(67.8%)
30 - MARVEL & DC	(25.0%)
4 - DC	(3.3%)
5 - PASS	(4.1%)

Now that is an interesting reply, altho--ugh not entirely unexpected.

6. DO YOU BUY COMICS FROM THE INDEPEND--ENT COMPANIES ? 84 said yes, 32 said no & 5 passed. Now when you take into account this question in regard to the last question, we're obviously not totally pro-MARVEL, its just appears that DC aren't so appealing. Comments anyone on this. What has MARVEL got that DC appears not to have when you look at this result ??

7. DO YOU BUY BRITISH MARVELS ? 68 said yes, 51 said no & 2 passed. I got the impression from the answers that the main attraction was a certain CAPTAIN BRITAIN strip & not necessarily the reprints...Or am I neglecting DR. WHO MONTHLY by any chance ??

8. DO YUU ENJOY TEAM-UPS OF CHARACTERS FROM MARVEL & DC ?? 88 said yes, 27 said no & 6 passed. Lets hope that the two companies can sort out their current difficulties in that case. On analysis though, its probably fulfilling fantasies from childhood (or for those still in it) of speculating what would happen if certain characters would meet, although I feel it makes more sense to fight the villains than each other, which has become rather cliched.

9. DO YOU LIMIT THE NUMBER OF COMICS YOU BUY ? Breakdown as follows : -

61 - YES BY PRICE	(50.4%)
39 - NO	(32.2%)
15 - YES BY NUMBER	(12.4%)
6 - PASSED	(5.0%)

From this I take it that the higher quality paper which raises the price is not always appreciated ?? I suppose I could ask from this which is the best buy: One expensive comic OR two comics for the same price as the first. Is this an indication we deem the quality of the story higher than the paper ?? Personally if they're going to spend money on printing, then I can't see why they don't keep the same paper & have the better quality metal plates than the conventio--nal plastic plates which are currently used. Comments anyone ??

10. DO YOU COLLECT THE WORK OF A PART--ICULAR ARTIST ? 83 entries with 280 passes with 50 choices.

35 - JOHN BYRNE	(9.6%)
14 - FRANK MILLER	(3.9%)
13 - P.SMITH/G.PEREZ-joint	(3.6%)
12 - NEAL ADAMS	(3.3%)
9 - JIM STARLIN	(2.5%)

Judging by the pass mark I'd say that the story or characters tend to rule higher than artistic appeal. Oh, we also had some confusion when anybody put down ROMITA, SMITH or BUSCEMA - since there two of each & few were specific.

11. DO YOU COLLECT THE WORK OF A PART--ICULAR WRITER ? 115 entries with 248 passes with 26 choices.

26 - CHRIS CLAREMONT	(7.2%)
11 - F.MILLER/J.BYRNE-joint	(3.0%)
8 - A.MOORE/S.GERBER-joint	(2.2%)
6 - DOUG MOENCH	(1.7%)
5 - MARV WOLFMAN	(1.4%)

Ditto reply as question 10.

12. DO YOU THINK JOHN BYRNE SHOULD HAVE AN INKER ? 64 said yes, 29 said no, 18 passed. Its inter--esting to note that this has now come to pass where ALPHA FLIGHT is concerned. Do you think anyone over there has been reading a certain clubzine ??

13. WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE A TEAM-UP BOOK NOT INVOLVING SPIDER-MAN ? 85 said yes, 17 said no & 9 passed. Lets hope they read the answer to that one. Although MARVEL TEAM-UP is another SPIDEY territory book, it wouldn't do any harm to spotlight other characters teaming-up together.

14. DO YOU LIKE TEAM-UP BOOKS ? 76 said yes, 39 weren't bothered, 25 said a bit, 6 said no & 5 passed. That's another belief in fandom press which is contrary to opinion, isn't it ??

15. DO YOU BUY THESE ?

41 - STARBURST	
13 - STARLOG	
10 - COMICSCENE (gone but not forgotten)	
3 - FANGORIA	

Those I asked who bought both 'BURST & 'LOG tended to agree that they complemented each other on material on the whole.

16. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF BACK ISSUE PRICES GENERALLY ? 75 said too high, 38 said fair, 3 thought too low & 7 passed.

17. HAVE YOU EVER BOUGHT A COMIC YOU KNOW TO BE OVER-PRICED ? 61 said yes, 58 said no & 2 passed. This is the kind of question which really needs to be broken down a little further. Were you desperate to read it, thought the price could go up even higher or maybe the final issue to complete a run. The criteria for buying any back-issues is how much you are prepared to pay for them still seems to hold true.

18. WHAT IS THE MOST SOUGHT AFTER BACK-ISSUE YOU'VE YET TO BUY ? We had 125 entries so we broke it down into companies.

93 - MARVEL	
13 - DC	
19 - OTHERS	

Continuity rules OK ??

40 members cited X-MEN & ≠ 94, GS ≠ 1 (you can get the story cheaper in X-MEN SPECIAL EDITION don't forget) & X-MEN ≠ 121 as the most sought after.

19. WHAT IS THE COMIC YOU FOUND HARDEST TO GET HOLD OF FOR YOUR COLLECTION ?

20. FROM Q19, HOW MUCH DID YOU PAY FOR IT? From 83 entries it does pay to look around. X-MEN ≠ 121 was obtained from as little as £2.75 to as much as £9.00. Some of the prices indicated they weren't bought quite so recently, & many couldn't remember how much they paid.

21. HOW MANY OTHER FANZINES DO YOU READ ? From the data we established that 60 do read them & 61 don't. Those that do average about 6 zines each.

22. DO YOU READ NEWSZINES ? 63 said yes, 53 said no & 5 passed

23. ARE YOU INFLUENCED TO PICK UP COMICS YOU DON'T NORMALLY READ BY NEWSZINES ? 63 said no, 49 said yes & 9 passed.

These two questions gohand in hand. There are signs that you are all very independent but

continued on page:24

THE CASE FOR MAGNETO!

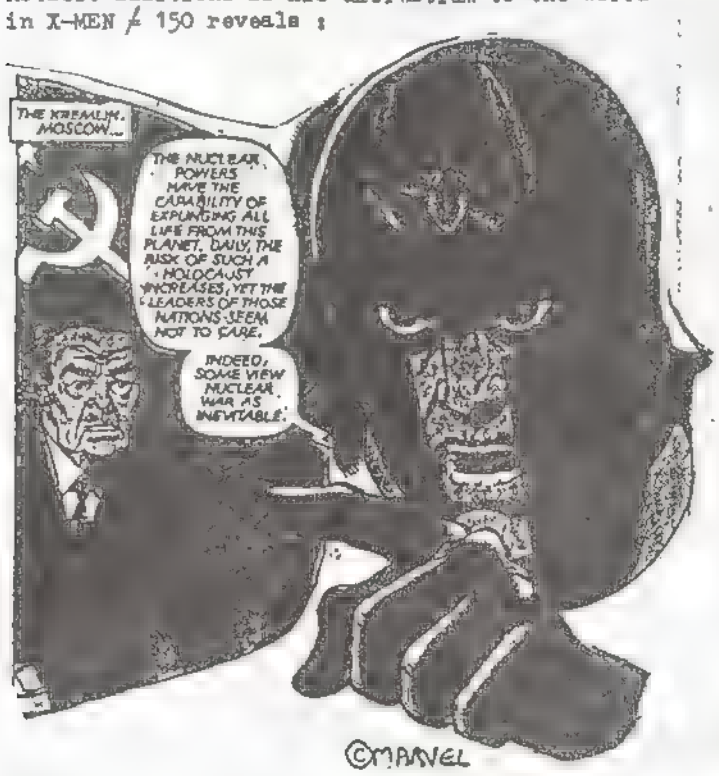
At one time, X-MEN # 1 - 66, there couldn't have been much doubt in anybody's mind as to what a world ruled by MAGNETO would have been like because judging by his words & actions, he'd have been a tyrant - ruling the globe with an iron fist. Humans would've been little more than slaves & MAGNETO's fellow mutants (going by his treatment of numerous mutant underlings during this period) on only a slightly better position.

Since then, however, MAGNETO has changed consi-derably so that today it is rather more difficult to imagine what his kind of world would be like. Indeed, these days its very probable that a good many folk are quite tempted by his vision of the future.

The following article takes a good look at MAGNETO's ideas & speculates as to what they would mean for us all. Are they the framework for a new golden age for human & mutantkind alike ?? Or are they a recipe for endless misery ?? Furthermore, even if they DO represent a great new dawn, does this end justify MAGNETO's intended means ??

First though, let me lay out MAGNETO's ideas as they stand at the moment. All his plans have grown from the view (mistaken or otherwise) that mutants & humans CANNOT live side by side in peace. He believes that sooner or later humans will either attempt to annihilate Homo superior or, at the very least, they will make life hell for them. Thus, MAGNETO has determined that the only way to avoid this is for mutants to rule the world (or alternatively, establish their own country as explained by QUICKSILVER in X-MEN # 45). Since then, however, MAGNETO appears to have abandoned this idea in favour of the above).

Up to this point his current ideas are much the same as they ever were. Now thought, there are notable additions as his ultimatium to the world in X-MEN # 150 reveals :


THE KREMLIN, MOSCOW...
THE NUCLEAR POWERS HAVE THE CAPABILITY OF EXPUNGING ALL LIFE FROM THIS PLANET. DAILY, THE RISK OF SUCH A HOLOCAUST INCREASES, YET THE LEADERS OF THOSE NATIONS SEEM NOT TO CARE.
INDEED, SOME VIEW NUCLEAR WAR AS INEVITABLE.
©MARVEL

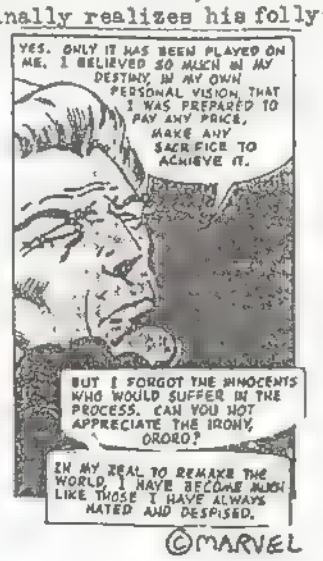
And then later in the same issue, he states that he wishes to redirect the trillions spent on arms every year into eradicating hunger, disease & poverty. Clearly, MAGNETO feels the implementation of these ideas would result in a 'golden age' for all humanity - more than making up for any loss of freedom that might occur.

In a nutshell, MAGNETO's vision of the future is: A world free from misery & strife - ruled benevolently by mutants.

The first question to be asked is: Is he correct in his belief that humans & mutants couldn't live together in peace ? History tells us that the majority is often inclined to abuse the minnority for no good reason other than the latter are different. A fairly recent example of this practice (one which probably did most to shape MAGNETO's present views) is the wholesale slaughter of the JEWS in WORLD WAR 2. Given this tendency, think how much more inclined the majority would be to stomp the minnority if they actually posed a tangible threat (however remote the possibility of such a threat might be) as with mutants. Not only would the mistrust be greatly enhanced but the majority would be driven to violence at the drop of a hat. (eg REVEREND STRYKER). To make matters worse, you must also remember that same majority (usually) makes up & is responsible for voting in the governing bodies of most countries so that the minnority may also have to put up with a 'legal' attack (eg the Mutant Affairs Control Act). Add to this the fear of governments that mutants might fall into 'enemy' hands if left alone & you begin to realize that the liklihood of mutants & humans living in harmony under the present conditions seems pretty remote to say the least! It is MAGNETO's belief that these problems can NEVER be overcome if mutants don't become the masters.

PROFESSOR X believes otherwise. He & his pupils are of the opinion that the human race cannot be FORCED into accepting mutants but, as CYCLOPS put it in the GRAPHIC NOVEL, '...To have any meaning, (acceptance) must grow from within'. He was right, of course, but the path to peaceful co-existance by this route would be a long & hard one & by no means certain of success (as suggested above). Little wonder that MAGNETO chooses the shorter more direct route.

Next question: How will MAGNETO attain his 'golden age' ? In # 150 he was clearly prepared to murder on a massive scale to achieve his goals. Indeed, he even killed the crew of a Russian submarine that very issue for daring to launch missiles at him. However, things have chang-ged. At the end of the same issue, believing he has killed KITTY, MAGNETO finally realizes his folly:


YES. ONLY IT HAS BEEN PLAYED ON ME. I BELIEVED SO MUCH IN MY DESTINY, IN MY OWN PERSONAL VISION, THAT I WAS PREPARED TO PAY ANY PRICE, MAKE ANY SACRIFICE TO ACHIEVE IT.
BUT I FORGOT THE INNOCENTS WHO WOULD SUFFER IN THE PROCESS. CAN YOU NOT APPRECIATE THE IRONY, ORORO?
IN MY ZEAL TO REMAKE THE WORLD, I HAVE BECOME MUCH LIKE THOSE I HAVE ALWAYS HATED AND DESPISED.
©MARVEL

Thus, it is clear that MAGNETO has finally begun to question the morality of his intended methods (even though he STILL believes mutants should rule the world as revealed in the X-MEN GRAPHIC NOVEL). Whether he'll find some other route to his dream or eventually come to the conc-lusion that the end justifies the means is anybody's guess. I don't think even MAGNETO knows.

This brings us to the next question: Just what sort of world would MAGNETO's world be ? Is it really SO wonderful that its worth sacrificing possibly millions of lives to attain it ? Certainly, a world as MAGNETO envisages it would be a very attractive prospect, even for those living in the 'free world' (eg BRITAIN & U.S.A.) - what with no nukes, no wars, no more diseases, poverty or hunger - all in exchange for swapping the present (ineffectual) leaders for a new (more effective) one.

Sounds good, doesn't it ? Maybe TOO good. Can you really believe that follow-ing the initial struggle everyone would just meekly accept the new situation ? Of course not. Oh, the vast majority would (most of whom, like the third world for example, would see its obvious advantages) but there would be bound to be dissenters (eg the leaders & followers of the old regimes, the relatives & friends of those who've been killed by MAGNETO at the beginning, those who'd resent being ruled by 'muties' & even other mutants too proud to accept MAGNETO as their leader) all using the same tactics as present-day guerillas (but with greater effect since the number of ruling mutants would be relatively few). As time passes & the rebels increasingly more organised, vital projects would be sabotaged with greater frequency, even as the mutants find themselves the victims of constant assassination attempts. Hardly the world MAGNETO dreams of in which Homo superior would 'walk free & unafraid!' Eventually, the situation might get so bad that MAGNETO would be forced to drastic measures to keep order. Either further acts of violence (as at the start) or creating a totalitarian regime similar to that of DR. DOOM's. Neither option is too inviting.

And even if MAGNETO COULD maintain some semblance of his 'golden age', how long would this last after his eventual death (as CYCLOPS has asked before)? It would require an awfully powerful mutant to replace him &, to my knowledge, no such individual seems to exist at the present. And besides, who's to say such a mutant would be as well-intended ??

It would seem, even if one were able to justify the deaths of millions of innocents, for such a great ideal (similar numbers gave up their lives in WW2 for what, some might argue, was a consider-ably more flawed ideal) it might well be dooned to eventual failure anyway!

Therefore, though I, like the X-MEN, respect MAGNETO's dreams, I am forced to reject them as unworkable. If mutants & humans ARE to live together in peace, it can only be as equals - not as ruler & ruled. If MAGNETO REALLY wants to create a world where mutants can be free from all cares then he might be better employed by looking into his old idea of a separate nation state. If he could think of ways to make it defendible against human interference, then he might yet live to see his dreams come true.

STEVE WHATLEY'84

MICROVERSE JUSTICE?

In recent years, LILANDRA NERAMANI, MAJESTRIX SHI'AR has brought 2 TERRAN super-humans to trail for their alleged crimes against the Cosmos - JEAN GREY as the insane DARK PHOENIX & REED RICHARDS, leader of the FANTASTIC FOUR. In both cases, the accused were vindicated; JEAN by the selfless sacrifice of her life (X-MEN # 137) & REED RICHARDS by the testimonies of such as ODIN & ETERNITY itself (FANTASTIC FOUR # 262). How then, when such Cosmic Justice is seen to operate, that the destroyed of uncounted worlds & lives without number has gone unpunished & indeed unchallanged.

The X-MEN/MICRONAUTS LIMITED SERIES depicted the struggle of both teams, along with the inhabi--tants of the MICROVERSE, to defend it against the evil ENTITY. The battle was fierce & the catalogue of destruction, as BARON KARZA would have it, 'impressive'; 'frontier worlds...devastated' 'troops on both sides (slaughtered) by the thousand'; the planet D'ARNEL & its people destroyed; a division of DOG SOLDIERS, their KENNEL & the planet upon which it stood obliterated; & the very fabric of the MICRO--VERSE all but torn asunder. Acts of terrif--ying violence far exceeding those (known) of GALACTUS or DARK PHOENIX. And yet the ENTITY remains free & none has lifted a hand against him. Why ?? Because the ENTITY is PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER.

The evil side of XAVIER's persona, freed once before (X-MEN # 106), gained control of his powers & directed them against the MICRO--VERSE. Enslaving the X-MEN, MICRONAUTS & NEW MUTANTS, he spread his power & escaped back to Earth & only a desperate gamble by his good side (conscience) served to exorcise him. But, 'the potential for his creation still exists within (XAVIER), as within us all'.

LILANDRA pursued JEAN GREY for the crimes of her evil side, DARK PHOENIX, but JEAN realized that 'I though this side had been expunged, its potential return was too great a danger to the Universe & so she chose suocide. No one has brought CHARLES XAVIER to task. Can it be that the ENTITY's crimes count for nothing because they took place in a microscopic universe ??

Now that BARON KARZA has finally been defeated (MICRONAUTS # 58) it surely falls to the right--ful ruler of the MICRO--VERSE, PRINCESS MARI, to bring the ENTITY/XAVIER to trail. He must, of course, be found innocent like REED RICHARDS, after all it was the MR. HYDE aspect of his personality which wrought the destr--uction. Nevertheless, the potential (inevitable?) return of the ENTITY would call for nothing less than the equivalent of the psychic lobotomy which PHOENIX would have suffered.

However, it seems likely that the people of the MICROVERSE will never see justice done since, though this storyline was an integral part of the MICRONAUTS continuity, it has seemingly been ignored by the X-MEN's creators.

One law, it seems, operated for JEAN GREY. Another for CHARLES XAVIER.

GRAHAM SIM'84

BUY ALPHA FLIGHT # 6 - THE REAL MARVEL TRY-OUT BOOK. Just fill in the 5 missing pages.

NEAL BURTON'84

BUY ALPHA FLIGHT # 13 - the LETTERER'S & SCRIP--TER'S DREAM - Put in your own dialogue.

Ever got the impression that JOHN BYRNE was miffed at not being selected to be the artist on the TRY-OUT BOOK ??

LAMPREY'84

AGAR COMICS

NEW LISTS OUT NOW

ADVANCE ORDER IMPORTS

PLUS DISTRIBUTED COMICS.

INCLUDING :– MARVEL, D.C.,

FIRST, PACIFIC, EAGLE, ECLIPSE.

SEND A STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE TO:

AGAR COMICS
6 BROUGHTON ROAD
ADLINGTON
NR. MACCLESFIELD
CHESHIRE
SK10 4ND

MARVEL UNIVERSE HANDBOOK DATA BREAKDOWNS

ENHANCED HUMANS DATA BREAKDOWN

AN ENHANCED HUMAN IS A HUMAN WHO HAS TAKEN TREATMENT (DRUG &/OR RADIATION OR TRAINING) TO ENHANCE HIS/HER NATURAL ABILITIES. THE EFFECTS MAY BE TEMPORARILY OR REVERSIBLE, & CAN BE IMPROVED BY TRAINING.

FULL DATA ON : 13

BLACK PANTHER	CAPTAIN AMERICA	DEVIL-SLAYER	
HELLCAT	HIGH EVOLUTIONARY	HOBGOBLIN	
IRON FIST	KRAVEN THE HUNTER	MOLE MAN	
MOONDRAGON	NOMAD	VULTURE	WASP

HEROES	: 8	DUBIOUS HEROES	: 1
VILLAINS	: 3	DUBIOUS VILLAINS	: 1
ADULTS	: 13		
MALES	: 10	FEMALES	: 3
TOTAL HERO/MALE	: 6	TOTAL HERO/FEMALE	: 3
TOTAL VILLAIN/MALE	: 4		

TALLEST HERO	: MOON DRAGON	(6ft 3ins)
SHORTEST HERO	: WASP	(5ft 4ins)
TALLEST VILLAIN	: KRAVEN THE HUNTER	(6ft)
SHORTEST VILLAIN	: MOLE MAN	(5ft 5ins)
HEAVIEST HERO	: CAPTAIN AMERICA	(240 lbs)
LIGHTEST HERO	: WASP	(110 lbs)
HEAVIEST VILLAIN	: KRAVEN THE HUNTER	(235 lbs)
LIGHTEST VILLAIN	: VULTURE	(175 lbs)

TOP HERO PRESS WT	: BLACK PANTHER/CAPTAIN AMERICA	(0.4tons)
TOP VILLAIN PRESS WT	: KRAVEN THE HUNTER	(2 tons)

TOP EFFICIENCY WT/PRESS WT	: HERO	: BLACK PANTHER	(0.0022
TOP EFFICIENCY WT/PRESS WT	: VILLAIN	: KRAVEN THE HUNTER	(0.0085

PHYSICALLY IMPROVED ENHANCED HUMANS	: 5
ENHANCED HUMANS WITH IMPROVED SENSES	: 3
ENHANCED HUMANS WITH PSI ABILITIES	: 1
ENHANCED HUMANS BY TRAINING	: 5
ENHANCED HUMANS BY DRUGS	: 5
ENHANCED HUMANS BY RADIATION	: 2
ENHANCED HUMANS BY DRUGS/RADIATION	: 1

PRESS WEIGHT (tons)		EFFICIENCIES	
1. KRAVEN THE HUNTER	2	1. KRAVEN THE HUNTER	0.0085
2. BLACK PANTHER	0.4	2. BLACK PANTHER	0.0022
3. CAPTAIN AMERICA	0.4	3. CAPTAIN AMERICA	0.0017
4. MOONDRAGON	0.2	4. MOONDRAGON	0.0013
5. NOMAD	0.2	5. VULTURE	0.0011
6. VULTURE	0.2	6. NOMAD	0.0010
7. DEVIL-SLAYER	0.1	7. HELLCAT	0.0008
8. IRON FIST	0.1	8. IRON FIST	0.0006

MARVEL UNIVERSE HANDBOOK DATA BREAKDOWNS

CYBORG DATA BREAKDOWN

A CYBORG (OR CYBERNETIC ORGANISM) IS A HUMAN WHO HAS EITHER HAD AN IMPLANT, A LIMB OR OTHER REPLACEMENT USING NON-ORGANIC (ie METAL) PARTS.

FULL DATA ON : 10

ANACONDA	ARNIM ZOLA	BLACK MAMBA	CONTROLLER
DEATH ADDER	DEATHLOK	KILLER SHRIKE	LIVING LASER
SIDEWINDER	SILVERMANE		

DUBIOUS HEROES : 1

VILLAINS : 9

ADULTS : 10
MALES : 8 FEMALES : 2

TOTAL HERO/MALE : 1
TOTAL VILLAIN/MALE: 7 TOTAL VILLAIN/FEMALE : 2

TALLEST HERO : DEATHLOK (6ft 4ins)

TALLEST VILLAIN : KILLER SHRIKE (6ft 5ins)
SHORTEST VILLAIN : ARNIUM ZOLA/DEATH ADDER (5ft 5ins)

HEAVIEST HERO : DEATHLOK (395 lbs)

HEAVIEST VILLAIN : CONTROLLER (565 lbs)
LIGHTEST VILLAIN : BLACK MAMBA (115 lbs)

TOP HERO PRESS WT : DEATHLOK (4.4tons)
TOP VILLAIN PRESS WT : CONTROLLER (50 tons)

TOP EFFICIENCY WT/PRESS WT : HERO : DEATHLOK (0.0114)
TOP EFFICIENCY WT/PRESS WT : VILLAIN : CONTROLLER (0.0885)

PHYSICALLY DIFFERENT CYBORGS : 4
CYBORGS WITH LIMB REPLACEMENTS: 5
CYBORGS WITH IMPLANTS : 4
CYBORGS WITH ORGANIC ADDITIONS: 2

PRESS WEIGHT (tons)		EFFICIENCIES	
1. CONTROLLER	50	1. CONTROLLER	0.0885
2. DEATHLOK	4.4	2. DEATHLOK	0.0111
3. KILLER SHRIKE	0.5	3. DEATH ADDER	0.0023
4. DEATH ADDER	0.4	4. KILLER SHRIKE	0.0020

MARVEL UNIVERSE HANDBOOK DATA BREAKDOWNS

ARMOURED HUMAN DATA BREAKDOWN

ARMOURED HUMANS ARE THOSE HUMANS WHO WEAR PROTECTIVE COSTUMES IN THEIR ACTIVITIES. THESE MAY ALSO CONTAIN OTHER GADGETRY SUCH AS AUGMENTING NATURAL STRENGTH & ENABLE WEARER TO FLY, ETC: NORMALLY, THESE PEOPLE HAVE NO SUPER-HUMAN POWERS. THOSE THAT DO POSSESS INNATE SUPER-POWERS IN ADDITION TO THEIR BODY ARMOUR ARE LABELLED '*'.

FULL DATA ON : 31

BEETLE	BLIZZARD	BOOMERANG
CONSTRICTOR	CRIMSON DYNAMO	DEFENSOR
DOCTOR DOOM	DREADKNIGHT	ENFORCER
FALCON	FROG-MAN	GUARDIAN
GUARDSMAN	HIGH EVOLUTIONARY	IRON MAN
JACK O'LANTERN	JUGGERNAUT*	KANG
LIGHTMASTER	MAULER	MANDROID
PALADIN	PEREGRINE	PROFESSOR POWER
SCORPION*	STILT-MAN	STINGRAY
TITANIUM MAN	UNICORN*	VULTURE*
WIZARD		

HEROES	: 7	DUBIOUS HEROES	: 3
VILLAINS	: 18	DUBIOUS VILLAINS	: 2

ADULTS	: 31
MALES	: 31

TOTAL HERO/MALE	: 10
TOTAL VILLAIN/MALE	: 20

TALLEST HERO (WITHOUT ARMOUR)	: STINGRAY	(6ft 3ins)
SHORTEST HERO(WITHOUT ARMOUR)	: DEFENSOR	(6ft)
TALLEST HERO (WITH ARMOUR)	: IRON MAN	(6ft 4ins)
SHORTEST HERO(WITH ARMOUR)	: DEFENSOR	(6ft)
TALLEST VILLAIN (WITHOUT ARMOUR)	: JUGGERNAUT	(6ft10ins)
SHORTEST VILLAIN(WITHOUT ARMOUR)	: STILT MAN	(5ft 6ins)
TALLEST VILLAIN (WITH ARMOUR)	: TITANIUM MAN	(8ft 6ins)
SHORTEST VILLAIN(WITH ARMOUR)	: STILT MAN	(5ft 6ins)
HEAVIEST HERO (WITHOUT ARMOUR)	: FALCON	(240 lbs)
LIGHTEST HERO(WITHOUT ARMOUR)	: FROG MAN	(158 lbs)
HEAVIEST HERO (WITH ARMOUR)	: IRON MAN	(425 lbs)
LIGHTEST HERO(WITH ARMOUR)	: GUARDSMAN	(330 lbs)
HEAVIEST VILLAIN (WITH ARMOUR)	: TITANIUM MAN	(510 lbs)
LIGHTEST VILLAIN(WITH ARMOUR)	: DREADKNIGHT	(220 lbs)

TOP HERO PRESS WT	: STINGRAY	(40 tons)
TOP VILLAIN PRESS WT	: TITANIUM MAN	(50 tons)

TOP EFFICIENCY WT/PRESS WT	: HERO	: IRON MAN	(0.0024)
TOP EFFICIENCY WT/PRESS WT	: VILLAIN	: TITANIUM MAN	(0.063?)

TOP HERO FLIGHT SPEED	: IRON MAN	(960 mph)
TOP VILLAIN FLIGHT SPEED	: MAULER	(1250 mph)

TOP EFFICIENCY WT/FLT SPD	: HERO	: GUARDIAN	(4.0526)
TOP EFFICIENCY WT/FLT SPD	: VILLAIN	: MAULER	(3.1250)

HOW MANY ARMOURS CAN PRESS WEIGHT	: 20
HOW MANY ARMOURS RAISE OCCUPANCY PRESS WEIGHT	: 3
HOW MANY ARMOURS HAVE FLIGHT CAPABILITY	: 16
HOW MANY ARMOURS ARE (NEARLY) INVULNERABLE	: 15
HOW MANY ARE FULL ARMOUR	: 21
HOW MANY ARMOURS ARE ELECTRIC POWERED	: 15
HOW MANY ARMOURS ARE ATOMIC POWERED	: 8
HOW MANY ARMOURS ARE COMPUTERISED	: 20
HOW MANY ARMOURS HAVE ENERGY REPULSORS	: 3
HOW MANY ARMOURS COME WITH GUNS	: 3
HOW MANY ARMOURS ARE MADE OF IRON OR STEEL	: 8
HOW MANY INVENTORS WEAR THEIR OWN ARMOUR	: 12

NB: JUGGERNAUT, SCORPION, UNICORN & VULTURE HAVE BEEN IGNORED FROM THE PRESS WEIGHT ASPECT BECAUSE THEIR SUPER-STRENGTH IS INNATE.
FIXER, SABRA & WONDER MAN HAVE BEEN INCLUDED WITH FLIGHT SPEEDS SINCE ALTHOUGH THEY COME UNDER OTHER CATEGORIES, THEIR MEANS OF FLIGHT IS MECHANICAL.
KILLER SHRIKE, ALTHOUGH STRICTLY A CYBORG, IS INCLUDED BECAUSE ALTHOUGH HIS ABILITY IS INTERNAL, IT IS STILL MECHANICAL.

PRESS WEIGHT (tons)		EFFICIENCIES	
1. TITANIUM MAN	50	1. STINGRAY	0.2000
2. STINGRAY	40	2. TITANIUM MAN	0.0637
3. IRON MAN	11	3. DREADKNIGHT	0.0625
4. DREADKNIGHT	10	4. PROFESSOR POWER	0.0455
5. PROFESSOR POWER	10	5. KANG	0.0217
6. CRIMSON DYNAMO	7.5	6. GUARDSMAN	0.0184
7. GUARDSMAN	7	7. GUARDIAN	0.0184
8. KANG	5	8. CRIMSON DYNAMO	0.0130
9. GUARDIAN	3.5	9. PALADIN	0.0040
10. PALADIN	1	10. IRON MAN	0.0024
11. DOCTOR DOOM	1	11. DOCTOR DOOM	0.0024
12. BEETLE	0.4	12. BEETLE	0.0023
13. WIZARD	0.2	13. WIZARD	0.0013

FLIGHT SPEEDS(mph)		EFFICIENCIES	
1. MAULER	1250	1. FIXER*	4.8125
2. IRON MAN	960	2. GUARDIAN	4.0526
3. FIXER*	770	3. MAULER	3.1250
4. GUARDIAN	770	4. IRON MAN	2.2588
5. TITANIUM MAN	430	5. SABRA*	1.3333
6. SABRA*	320	6. WIZARD	0.9333
7. UNICORN	180	7. UNICORN	0.8182
8. DOCTOR DOOM	160	8. LIGHTMASTER	0.8000
9. PROFESSOR POWER	150	9. GUARDSMAN	0.7886
10. FALCON	140	10. PEREGRIN	0.7429
11. LIGHTMASTER	140	11. PROFESSOR POWER	0.6818
12. WIZARD	140	12. FALCON	0.5833
13. GUARDSMAN	138	13. TITANIUM MAN	0.5478
14. PEREGRIN	130	14. VULTURE	0.5429
15. KILLER SHRIKE*	120	15. KILLER SHRIKE*	0.4800
16. CRIMSON DYNAMO	110	16. DOCTOR DOOM	0.3810
17. VULTURE	95	17. BEETLE	0.3429
18. WONDER MAN*	60	18. WONDER MAN*	0.2105
19. BEETLE	60	19. CRIMSON DYNAMO	0.1913
20. BOOMERANG	30	20. BOOMERANG	0.1714

MARVEL UNIVERSE HANDBOOK DATA BREAKDOWNS

HUMAN DATA BREAKDOWN

A HUMAN IS SOMEONE WHO POSSESSES NEITHER INNATE SUPER POWERS (WHETHER PHYSICAL OR MENTAL) BUT WHO HAS TO RELY ON TRAINING OR CARRY A WEAPON OR USE HIS/HER INTELLIGENCE.

FULL DATA ON : 48

ANTMAN	ARCADE	BARON ZEMO(2)
BATROC	BELLADONNA	BLACK CAT
BLACK KNIGHT	BLACKLASH	BLACK WIDOW
BLUE SHIELD	BULLSEYE	DIABLO
ELEKTRA	FIXER	GRIM REAPER
HANGMAN	HAWKEYE	IMMORTUS
JESTER	KA-ZAR	KINGPIN
MADAME MASQUE	MAD THINKER	MANDARIN
MELTER	MISTER FEAR	MOCKINGBIRD
MOON KNIGHT	MYSTERIO	NICK FURY
NIGHTSHADE	PLANTMAN	PLUNDERER
PUCK	PUNISHER	PUPPET MASTER
RAMA-TUT	RED SKRULL	RED WOLF
RINGMASTER	SCARECROW	SHANNA THE SHE-DEVIL
SHOOTING STAR	TATTERDEMALION	TOMORROW MAN
TRAPSTER	UNION JACK(3)	VIPER

HEROES	: 13	DUBIOUS HEROES	: 28
VILLAINS	: 28	DUBIOUS VILLAINS	: 3
ADULTS	: 48		
MALES	: 38	FEMALES	: 10
TOTAL HERO/MALE	: 10	TOTAL HERO/FEMALE	: 5
TOTAL VILLAIN/MALE	: 27	TOTAL VILLAIN/FEMALE	: 3

TALLEST HERO	: RED WOLF	(6ft 4ins)
SHORTEST HERO	: PUCK	(3ft 6ins)
TALLEST VILLAIN	: KINGPIN	(6ft 7ins)
SHORTEST VILLAIN	: NIGHTSHADE	(5ft 4ins)
HEAVIEST HERO	: RED WOLF	(240 lbs)
LIGHTEST HERO	: BLACK CAT	(120 lbs)
HEAVIEST VILLAIN	: KINGPIN	(450 lbs)
LIGHTEST VILLAIN	: NIGHTSHADE	(110 lbs)
TOP HERO PRESS WT	: BLUE SHIELD	(0.8tons)
TOP VILLAIN PRESS WT	: KINGPIN	(0.3tons)
TOP EFFICIENCY WT/PRESS WT	: HERO :	BLUE SHIELD (0.0040
TOP EFFICIENCY WT/PRESS WT	: VILLAIN :	BATROC (0.0009

HUMANS WITH OLYMPIC ATHLETIC ABILITY	: 7
HUMANS WITH OLYMPIC GYMNASTIC ABILITY	: 2
HUMANS WITH ATHLETIC ABILITY	: 13
HUMANS WITH COMBAT TRAINING	: 21
HUMANS WHO CARRY WEAPONS	: 16

	PRESS WEIGHT	(tons)		EFFICIENCIES	
1.	BLUE SHIELD	0.8	1.	HANGMAN	0.0064
2.	KINGPIN	0.3	2.	BLUE SHIELD	0.0040
2.	BATROC	0.2	3.	BATROC	0.0009
2.	HANGMAN	0.2	3.	MOON KNIGHT	0.0009
2.	MOON KNIGHT	0.2	3.	PUCK	0.0009
2.	PUCK	0.2	6.	RED WOLF	0.0008
2.	RED WOLF	0.2	7.	KINGPIN	0.0007
8.	BULLSEYE	0.1	8.	BULLSEYE	0.0005
9.	HAWKEYE	0.1	9.	HAWKEYE	0.0004

MARVEL UNIVERSE HANDBOOK DATA BREAKDOWNS

ESKIMO DEMI-GOD REALM DATA BREAKDOWN

ESKIMO GODS EXIST ON ANOTHER DIMENSIONAL REALM STRONGLY CONNECTED TO THE EARTH'S. THEY DO NOT PLAY AN ACTIVE PART ON EARTH ALTHOUGH THEY DO HAVE ONE HYBRID OFFSPRING WHICH DOES.

FULL DATA ON : 1

SNOWBIRD

HEROES : 1

ADULTS : 1

DEMI-GODDESS : 1

TOTAL HERO/FEMALE : 1

TALLEST HERO : SNOWBIRD (5ft10ins)

HEAVIEST HERO : SNOWBIRD (108 lbs)

DEMI-GODDESS CAPABLE OF SHAPE-SHIFTING : 1
DEMI-GODDESS CAPABLE OF LIMITED PRECOGNITION : 1

MARVEL UNIVERSE HANDBOOK DATA BREAKDOWNS

ASGARDIAN REALM DATA BREAKDOWN

ASGARDIANS BELONG TO A DIMENSIONAL REALM CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE EARTH'S. IN GENERAL THEY HAVE LONG LIVES (BUT ARE NOT IMMORTAL). THEIR FLESH IS 3 TIMES AS DENSE AS HUMAN & MOST CAN PRESS ABOUT 30 TONS. THEY ARE IMMUNE TO DISEASE & CONVENTIONAL INJURY. SOME ARE APT WITH 'MYSTICISM'.

FULL DATA ON : 11 (out of 23-THOSE '*' HAVE INSUFFICIENT DATA)

BALDER*	ENCHANTRESS	EXECUTIONER	FANDRAL*
FREY*	FRIGGA*	GEIRRODUR	HEIMDALL*
HELA	HERMOD*	HOGUN*	IDUNN*
KARNILLA	LOKI	ODIN	SIF
SIGYN*	THOR	TYR*	ULIK
VALKYRIE	VOLLA*	VOLSTAGG*	

HEROES : 4 DUBIOUS HEROES : 1 UNINVOLVED : 2
VILLAINS : 4

ADULTS : 11
GODS : 4 GODDESS' : 5 TROLLS : 2

TOTAL HERO/MALE : 2 TOTAL HERO/FEMALE : 3
TOTAL VILLAIN/MALE: 3 TOTAL VILLAIN/FEMALE : 1

TALLEST HERO : ODIN (6ft 9ins)
SHORTEST HERO : SIF (6ft 2ins)

TALLEST VILLAIN : EXECUTIONER (7ft 2ins)
SHORTEST VILLAIN : ENCHANTRESS (6ft 3ins)

HEAVIEST HERO : ODIN (650 lbs)
LIGHTEST HERO : SIF (425 lbs)

HEAVIEST VILLAIN : EXECUTIONER (1110lbs)
LIGHTEST VILLAIN : ENCHANTRESS (450 lbs)

TOP HERO PRESS WT : THOR (95 tons)
TOP VILLAIN PRESS WT : ULIK (95 tons)

TOP EFFICIENCY WT/PRESS WT : HERO : THOR (0.1484)
TOP EFFICIENCY WT/PRESS WT : VILLAIN : ULIK (0.1218)

ASGARDIANS CAPABLE OF MANIPULATING MAGICAL ENERGY : 4

PRESS WEIGHTS (tons)		EFFICIENCIES	
1. THOR	95	1. THOR	0.1484
2. ULIK	95	2. ULIK	0.1218
3. EXECUTIONER	65	3. VALKYRIE	0.0947
4. ODIN	60	4. ODIN	0.0923
5. VALKYRIE	45	5. SIF	0.0706
6. LOKI	30	6. EXECUTIONER	0.0591
6. SIF	30	7. LOKI	0.0571
8. ENCHANTRESS	25	8. ENCHANTRESS	0.0556
8. GEIRRODUR	25	9. KARNILLA	0.0526
8. HELA	25	10. GEIRRODUR	0.0521
8. KARNILLA	25	11. HELA	0.0500

MARVEL UNIVERSE HANDBOOK DATA BREAKDOWNS

OLYMPIAN REALM DATA BREAKDOWN

OLYMPIANS BELONG TO A DIMENSIONAL REALM CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE EARTH'S. IN GENERAL THEY ARE ALL IMMORTAL & IT WOULD REQUIRE A MAJOR DISPERSION OF THEIR BODY MOLECULES TO CAUSE PHYSICAL DEATH (& EVEN THEN THEY COULD BE RESURRECTED). THEY ALL POSSESS GREAT PHYSICAL STRENGTH.

FULL DATA ON : 4 (out of 15-THOSE '*' HAVE INSUFFICIENT DATA)

APOLLO*	ARES	ARTEMIS*	ATHENA*	DIONYSIUS*
HEPHAESTUS*	HERA*	HERCULES	HERMES*	HYPPOLYTA*
NEPTUNE*	PLUTO	VENUS*	VESTA*	ZEUS

HEROES : 2
VILLAINS : 1 DUBIOUS VILLAINS : 1

ADULTS : 4
GODS : 3 DEMI-GODS : 1

TOTAL HERO/MALE : 2
TOTAL VILLAIN/MALE: 2

TALLEST HERO : ZEUS (6ft 7ins)
SHORTEST HERO : HERCULES (6ft 5ins)

TALLEST VILLAIN : PLUTO (6ft 5ins)
SHORTEST VILLAIN : ARES (6ft 1ins)

HEAVIEST HERO : ZEUS (560 lbs)
LIGHTEST HERO : HERCULES (325 lbs)

HEAVIEST VILLAIN : PLUTO (520 lbs)
LIGHTEST VILLAIN : ARES (200 lbs)

TOP HERO PRESS WT : HERCULES (100 tons)
TOP VILLAIN PRESS WT : PLUTO (70 tons)

TOP EFFICIENCY WT/PRESS WT : HERO : HERCULES (0.3077)
TOP EFFICIENCY WT/PRESS WT : VILLAIN : ARES (0.3500)

OLYMPIANS CAPABLE OF MANIPULATING MAGICAL ENERGY : 2

	PRESS WEIGHTS (tons)		EFFICIENCIES	
1.	HERCULES 100	1.	ARES	0.3500
2.	ZEUS 90	2.	HERCULES	0.3077
3.	ARES 70	3.	ZEUS	0.1607
4.	PLUTO 70	4.	PLUTO	0.1346

MARVEL UNIVERSE HANDBOOK DATA BREAKDOWNS

ETERNALS DATA BREAKDOWN

AN ETERNAL IS A SUB-SPECIES FROM HUMAN STOCK GENETICALLY ALTERED BY THE CELESTIALS TO POSSESS THE INNATE PSIONIC ABILITY TO MANIPULATE COSMIC ENERGY. THE ACTION OF WHICH PLUS LATER GENETIC MANIPULATION BY THEMSELVES HAS MADE THE ETERNALS IMMORTAL & IMMUNE TO DISEASE, REQUIRING A MAJOR DISPERSION OF BODY MOLECULES TO KILL THEM.
THEY CAN FLY BY MANIPULATING GRAVITONS & THEIR STRENGTH IS IS GREATLY AUGMENTED. THESE ABILITIES VARY AMONG THE SPECIES DEPENDING THE DEGREE OF TRAINING EACH HAS UNDER TAKEN TO USE IT AT ITS FULL POTENTIAL.

FULL DATA ON : 7 (out of 14-THOSE '*' HAVE INSUFFICIENT DATA

AJAK	DOMO*	HERO*	IKARIS	KINGO*	MAKKARI
MENTOR	SERSI	SPRITE*	STARFOX	THENA	TITANIS*
VALKIN*	ZARIN*				

HEROES : 7

ADULTS : 7
MALES : 5 FEMALES : 2

TOTAL HERO/MALE : 5 TOTAL HERO/FEMALE : 2

TALLEST HERO : IKARIS (6ft 2ins)
SHORTEST HERO : SERSI (5ft 9ins)

HEAVIEST HERO : IKARIS (230 lbs)
LIGHTEST HERO : SERSI (140 lbs)

TOP HERO PRESS WT : STARFOX (15 tons)

TOP EFFICIENCY WT/PRESS WT : HERO : STARFOX (0.0789)

TOP HERO FLIGHT SPEED : MAKKARI (875 mph)

TOP EFFICIENCY WT/FLT SPD : HERO : SERSI (5.1743)

PRESS WEIGHTS (tons)		EFFICIENCIES	
1. STARFOX	15	1. STARFOX	0.0789
2. IKARIS	1.5	2. MAKKARI	0.0069
3. MAKKARI	1.2	3. IKARIS	0.0065
4. AJAK	0.7	4. SERSI	0.0036
5. MENTOR	0.7	5. AJAK	0.0032
6. SERSI	0.5	6. THENA	0.0031
7. THENA	0.5	7. MENTOR	0.0030

FLIGHT SPEEDS (mph)		EFFICIENCIES	
1. MAKKARI	875	1. SERSI	5.3125
2. IKARIS	850	2. THENA	5.3125
3. THENA	850	3. MAKKARI	5.0000
4. SERSI	800	4. STARFOX	4.2105
5. STARFOX	800	5. IKARIS	3.6957
6. AJAK	650	6. AJAK	2.9545
7. MENTOR	500	7. MENTOR	2.3810

MARVEL UNIVERSE HANDBOOK DATA BREAKDOWNS

DEVIANTS DATA BREAKDOWN

A DEVIANT IS AN OFFSHOOT OF THE HUMAN SPECIES GENETICALLY ALTERED BY THE CELESTIALS GIVING THEM AN UNSTABLE GENETIC GENETIC STRUCTURE RESULTING IN VARIABLE MUTANT STOCK. THE ONLY COMMON CHARACTERISTIC IS LONGEVITY AS MOST DEVIANTS CAN LIVE FOR 1000 YEARS.

FULL DATA ON : 2 (out of 13-THOSE '*' HAVE INSUFFICIENT DATA)

BROOP*	DRAGONA*	ERISHKIGEL*	KARKAS	KRO
RAGAR*	RANSAK*	SHELMAR*	SLUICE*	TODE
TORO ROJO*	VIRA*	ZAKKA*		

HEROES : 1
VILLAINS : 1

ADULTS : 2
MALES : 2

TOTAL HERO/MALE : 1
TOTAL VILLAIN/MALE: 1

TALLEST HERO : KARKAS (8ft 3ins)

TALLEST VILLAIN : KRO (6ft 5ins)

HEAVIEST HERO : KARKAS (1260lbs)

HEAVIEST VILLAIN : KRO (320 lbs)

TOP HERO PRESS WT : KARKAS (25 tons)
TOP VILLAIN PRESS WT : KRO (2 tons)

TOP EFFICIENCY WT/PRESS WT : HERO : KARKAS (0.0198)
TOP EFFICIENCY WT/PRESS WT : VILLAIN : KRO (0.0065)

PHYSICALLY DIFFERENT DEVIANTS : 2
SHAPE-SHIFTING DEVIANTS : 1

PRESS WEIGHTS (tons)		EFFICIENCIES	
1. KARKAS	25	1. KARKAS	0.0198
2. KRO	2	2. KRO	0.0065

GODS OF LIGHT

Unlike our own world where natural forces, which can be described in scientific terms, control & shape the form & destiny of man & other life on Earth, the MARVEL UNIVERSE is shown as a place where magical & mystical forces have a considerable influence. Gods, demons & sorcerers manifest themselves & their powers regularly so as to almost have become a part of everyday life. Here, there have been as many pantheons & families of gods as there have been civilizations & cultures. Many are still active after they have gener--ally ceased to be actively worshipped, as well as many whose sphere of influence is away from the Earth - in the other planes of existance or in the universe generally. There are also many beings who through the applic--ation of science or sorcery have elevated themselves to a position where their raw power dwarfs that of the Gods. Who then are these Gods & how does one distinguish them from other beings of power & influence in the multiverse ?

Firstly, the Gods are born or formed by myst--ical or magical forces - their powers are natural & inherent in their actual existance. They are functionally immortal, immune to the effects of aging or disease (note ODIN has always been an 'old man' & will continue to appear so for all time) & although a God may 'die', the meaning of death to them is subtly different to what a mortal might understand by the term. On Earth, the powers of the Gods are increased proportionately to their number of believers or worshippers which is why, in the past, they actively sought out the devotions of man. In addition to the Gods of Earth (& Earth is pract--ically unique in its preponderance of divine beings) there are a number of more powerful Gods who appear to represent the 'primal forces', such as ETERNITY, CHAOS, ORDER & DEATH as well as a mysterious omnipresent being, whose physical manifestation is that of a blinding light - who may or maynot be the God worshipped by many cont--emporary religions, including Christianity.

The origin of the Gods on Earth starts billions of years ago with the spontaneous creation of the Demi-Urge, the spiritual manifestation of the Earth's 'Bio-Sphere'. The Demi-Urge was the instigator of both the first life on Earth & the creator of the first or 'ELDER GODS', in a manner reminiscent of the Christian creation story. However, his first children were flawed & regressed into demonic forms at constant war with each other until GAEA, the Goddess of life on Earth, created the first true God, ATUM, to cleanse the Earth of these destructive deities in his alternative incar--nation, the Demo-Gorge. Although some escaped the attentions of the Demo-Gorge, most of the ELDER GODS had their life energies absorbed & cleansed by the Demo-Gorge before being allowed to re-enter the Bio-Sphere where they drifted, shapeless, formless & mindless, until the coming of man - the first sentient life native to this planet. Man, the culm--ination of a series of mysterious scientific experiments by the CELESTIALS - a race of space-farers with almost infinite power, through the power of his mind was able to shape the life energies of the ELDER GODS into new forms in their own image; possibly the result of some master plan hatched by GAEA & ATUM. Thus, these new Gods were endowed with all the weaknesses of man's psyche. There were no pure divine spirits, but proud, domineering war-mongers, jealously guarding their worshippers, who were both their creators & their source of increased power. Naturally, neither the Gods nor their uncons--ious creators knew the whole story, so the Gods invented legends to account for their existance - supreme beings, creators of worlds - which were in turn imparted to their human followers & so came to be accepted as truth. Thus Man, creator

of Gods, came to worship his creations & in apeculiar symbiotic relationship, the Gods,in return for their increased power,cared for the souls of their righteous believers after death, providing them their wants & needs in the afterlife in their respective VALHALLAS & HEAVENS.

The NORSE PANTHEON & its world of ASGARD is the best documented of all the 'Younger Gdds'. Like all other divine worlds, ASGARD is linked to Earth from its home dimension, in this case via the RAINBOW BRIDGE:BIFROST, enabling easy access to the mortal plane, although other means of access such as astral projection are altern--atives. The High-Father ODIN was the original NORSE God, manufactured by the nascent mind of man & it is from him that all the other Gods of ASGARD owe their life. All of them created by the will of ODIN from his original energies but all the same endowed with free-will - their identities separate from the being from whom they were hatched. Similarly, ODIN created all the other beings - dwarves, trolls, giants & elves - who inhabit his world. Not so that they could worship him or the other Gods & men, but to test the mettle of his creations & himself. Remember that ODIN's creators were simple hunter/gatherers to whom combat & war were the greatest way of proving one's manhood & ODIN was made with the same weaknesses.

However, there was another more subtle reason for his creation of immortal foes & that was the inescap--able force of RAGNAROK. Although they are unaware of the fact the Gods are subject to far more powerful forces. They seem to be pawns in some super--plan which seems to encompass not only the Earth, but the Universe & even possibly the Multiverse. In the universe of the Gods, astrology exerts an extreme force on every aspect of life, mortal & immortal. Perhaps this is some remnant of the mystic flux which flows through the universe & which can be tapped by certain objects such as the BLOODSTONE or through the mental powers of sorcerers, but at any rate, every 2000 years or so, the ASGARDIANS are fated to destroy themselves as the Earth moves into a new house of the zodiac & then to be reborn anew. This tragic state of affairs seems to be fated to be repeated an infinite number of times until the final death of the Gods or of the Universe - since each new generation of ASGARDIANS is born from the same energies as the last, the new ODIN having the same mental flaws as his predecessor. Like their origins & the existance of the Demi-Urge & Demo-Gorge, this cosmic cycle is unknown to the immortals. However, this present generation of ASGARDIANS has tried to break the dead--lock by ODIN's fake RAGNAROK recently.

As I said earlier, the fate of immortals & men seem to be part of some premediated plan which may just cover this world or perhaps the whole Universe. The formulator of this master-plan remains a mystery. Man has had a long history of interventions which have seemed to point life towards a a specific goal. From GAEA's creation of ATUM, through the genetic experiments of the CELESTIALS upto the present spate of alien intrusions, MAN has been the focus of outside intervention - particularly due to the acts of the immortals, Man is the sole CELESTIAL creation to survive judge--ment by their makers. What is most inter--esting is the identity of the 'planner' & his(or her) ultimate intentions for Man & the Universe. Is our destiny a spiritual one, drawn up by the Demi-Urge or God to progress to be transformed into the Gods we created through the development of the soul & a better understanding of the Universe through philosophy & the mind or is it a temporal destiny. Were we created by the CELESTIALS to develop technologic--ally & span the universe giving the gift of sentience to future unthought of races?? Whatever the answer, the birth of the Gods on Earth was no accident. Perhaps all races need a guiding hand to bring them to cultural maturity. Certainly, the need for these simple Gods is now over. We know that in the case of theOLYMPIANS, at least, that in the next few centuries the Gods of the ancient GREEKS will die out. Their spirits deposited in some ELYSIA for the immortals, leaving only HERCULES, the result of the physical union of Gods & Men: as their representative on the material plane. Whatever the answer, this is truly the twilight of the Gods. An end to their usefulness & whatever their eventual fate, Man must make his way towards his destiny alone at last.

MICHAEL CREATER'84

ADAD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD

Are there any budding writers out there who are looking for an artist to draw some of their stories. I can't write stories to save my life but have had a couple of years art school training. Write to: ANDY SAUNDERS, OGILVIE HOUSE, LOWER BROADLANE, ILLOGAN, CORNWALL.

AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**

WANTED: X-MEN COMPANION # 1. Am willing to pay £3-£4 for a copy. Write to: DAMIAN WHITE, 106 FAIRLOP ROAD, BARKINSIDE, ILFORD, ESSEX IG6 2EN.

ADAD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD

WANTED: Old DR. WHO magazines & annuals. Send price list or American comic wants to: ROY McVEAN, 311 RENFREW ST, PEMBROKE, ONTARIO, CANADA K8A 5S2. If a deal is struck the DR WHO material can be sent to a U.K. address which I'll supply.

AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**

AUCTION OF 3 000 COMICS: MARVEL, DC, WARREN, INDEPENDENTS - individually from as low as 1p. SAE for list from: DICK DOMAR, 9 HIGHLANDS ROAD, WOLVERHAMPTON

ADAD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD

IF YOU'RE GOING ABROAD, ESPECIALLY EUROPE TELL YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD LAMPREY AS HE'S AFTER FOREIGN REPRINTS OF THE X-MEN. OK ??

SURVERY...continued from page:14

like to know what's going on.

24. DO YOU READ AMERICAN ZINES ? 50 said no, 22 said yes, 45 said occasionally & 4 passed. Then again, not enough of you buy our home-grown variety either.

25. HAS CEREBROSCOPE PROMPTED YOU TO BUY OTHER ZINES ? 55 said occasionally, 50 said never, 9 said often & 7 passed (what do you do, ignore the page ??) Perhaps I should have asked an additio--nal question like : Why don't you buy them ?? However, I'm glad to hear over half of you do indulge.

26. DO YOU CONTRIBUTE TO OTHER ZINES ? 73 said no, 46 said yes & 2 passed. This question goes hand in hand with the last question. Please remember that the future of fandom is in the hands of you people who are discovering it. It can be far stronger if more people are willing to partiscipate in it.

27. WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO BE PUT ON A LIST & BE APPROACHABLE FOR MATERIAL BY FANZINES WHO NEED CONTRIBUTORS ? Interestingly, 55 said yes & 55 said no & 11 paased. This question was prompted by the fact that I've been frequently asked in the past if I know anyone capable of covering certain topics or are available to do some illustrations. So that I can keep a ready fact-file, those of you who are interested please send in a 'FACT-SHEET'. Apart from your name, address & age on it, let me have a list of your tastes & interests & the kind of things you like to tackle, any challenges & whether & where you've had material published before & anytimes you aren't available (like exam-time). Fanzine editors who are short on material & after contributors, send an SAE & tell me what you're after. Contributions from Club members are rife over fandom & judging from this result more than willing to help out.

28. HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF PRODUCING YOUR OWN ZINE ? 57 said no, 39 have contemplated it & 22 said they did (really ?? I didn't realize we had so many in the Club!). Its all very well to have these thoughts, for those that do contemplate it but please think about your current attitude towards fanzines: If you don't go out & buy any now, bear in mind the same kind of reaction when yours becomes available.

30. DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS FOR THE NEXT SURVEY ? Of course, you did. However, you won't be reading them here. We'll be issuing them another time after we've recovered our wits after this one.

The'average' Club member can buy american comics from his local news--agent & is basically pro-MARVEL with a strong interest in the INDEPENDENT companies, buying a lot of things on import rates. They have no shame in buying the odd MARVEL U.K. product & overall limit the comics they buy by the price they have to pay for them. There's no real preference on artists or writers, although feel that JOHN BYRNE should have an inker, & would really like to see some non-SPIDER-MAN team-ups & have bought some over-priced comics in the past/present. They might buy other fanzines & even contribute - depending on time & their ability. Oh, & one question I almost forgot, (question 29) occasionaly they might be seen around the LONDON COMIC MARTS - but don't count on it.

Hoping that you've all digested these results, those questions which require SAEs should send them within the month please. Thanks for taking part.

LAMPREY'84

Xavier vs. Frost:
MORAL DILEMMAS

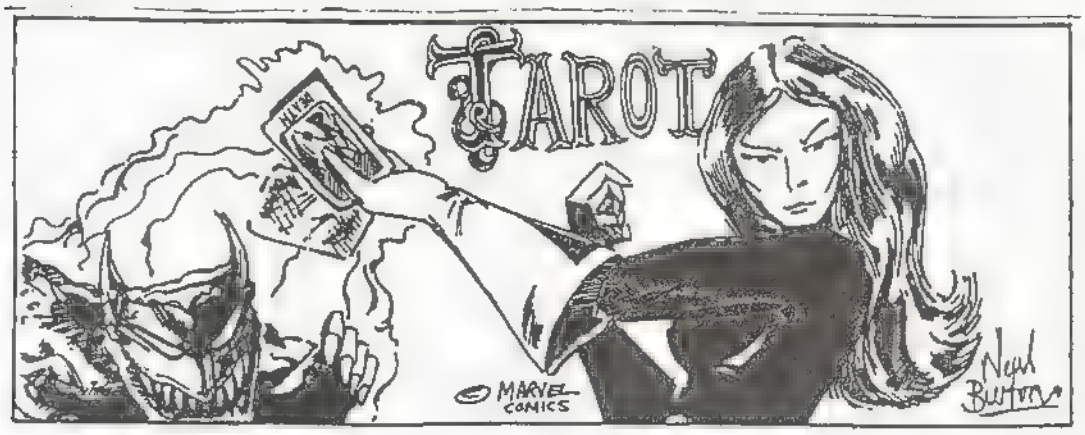
The special powers which mutation bestowes on the fortunate or cursed indi--viduals it touches, set them apart from normal people. The mutant has 3 choices:

The first is to ignore his power, if that is possible, & live life as if it was normal. This is a waste of personal reso--urces which I am sure even the most apathetic would ultilise to their own ends.

Secondly, he may decide his powers give him the potential to aid mankind. If they are sufficiently talented, mutants can protect the population at large from villainous elements. Some may feel it is their duty to undertake such activities. Such a person is CHARLES XAVIER.

Alternatively, mutants can decide their powers give superiority over normal individuals & attempt to dominate them. Such a person is EMMA FROST.

To perform these functions effectively & efficiently, mutants require intensive training to refine their skills. Both the individuals mentioned above provide such facilities.



EMMA FROST runs an ACADEMY in MASSACH--USETTS, backed by her private industrial fortune & the resources of the INNER CIRCLE of the HELLFIRE CLUB. Using HELL--FIRE operatives, young mutants are identified & given scholarships - usually with their parents' consent. Thus, young--sters are taken into a sheltered enviro--nment where they can develop their powers & learn to live in a society increasingly suspicious of super-powered individuals. Of course, in return EMMA FROST expects her star pupils, the HELLIONS, to follow her cause - either willingly or under force. Also, it is very doubtful if FROST would allpw potential enemies to leave with useful information.

PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER runs a SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS backed by his private fortune & aided - on occasion - by WORTHINGTON INDUSTRIES. Using sophisticated scanning devices, young mutants are identified & given scholarships - usually with their parents consent. Thus, youngsters are taken into a sheltered environment where they can develop their powers & learn to live in a society increas--ingly suspicious of super-powered individuals. Of course, CHARLES XAVIER expects his pupils, the NEW MUTANTS & formally the X-MEN, to follow his cause. It is known that XAVIER will not allow potential enemies, such as the BLOB, to leave with useful information.

At face value there appears to be little difference between the two establishments. However, there is an important one. XAVIER has a few students whilst FROST's number a few dozen at least. The reason, of course, is that until recently XAVIER had lost all interest in recruiting mutants on any scale. KITTY PRYDE was the first new entrant since the formation of the new team.

Partly, this is due to his devotion to LILANDRA NERIMANI & the absence from EARTH it caused - but mostly due to apathy. Even once resettled, it took the influence of the BROOD & threats from MOIRA MacTAGGERT that she would hand KARMA over to the HELLFIRE CLUB to persuade XAVIER into taking on students. Lately, XAVIER has appp--ared more interested in regaining the use of his legs & I suspect that now he has, most of his time will be spent on missions with the X-MEN.

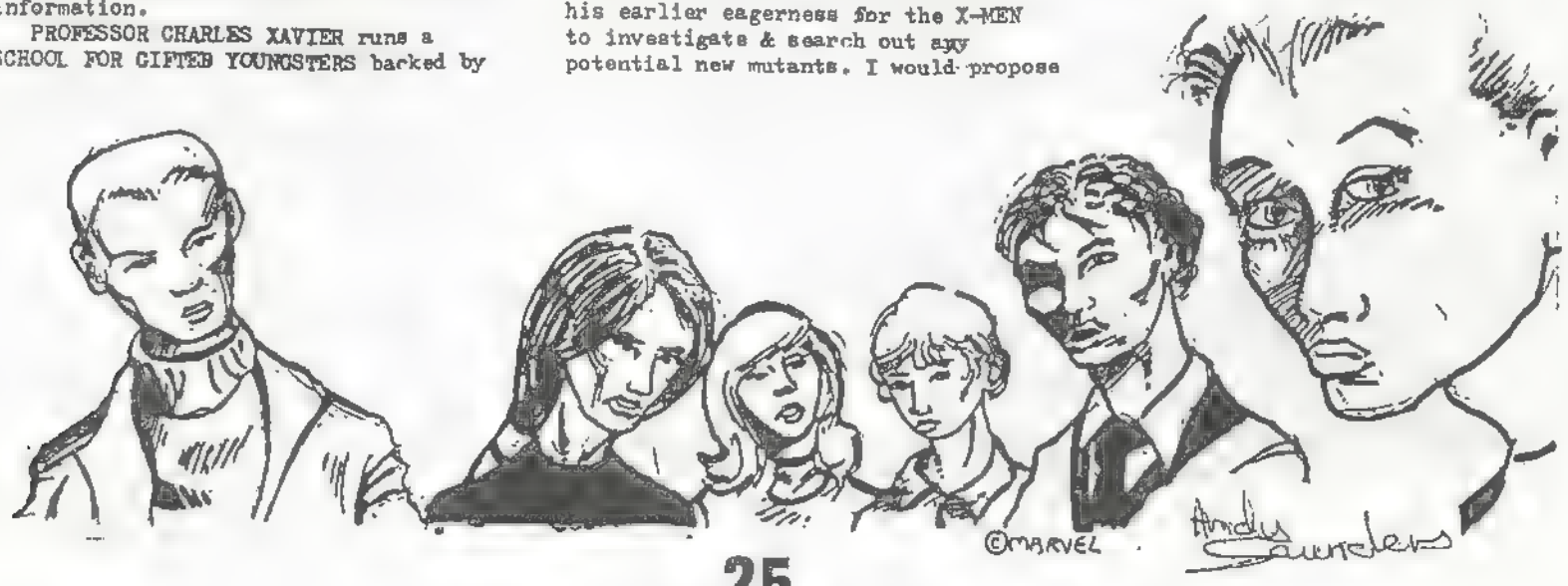
This is in direct contradiction to his earlier eagerness for the X-MEN to investigate & search out any potential new mutants. I would propose therefore that XAVIER is not under--taking his responsibilities to train & protect young mutants. This is espe--cially so since he has the necessary experience, knowledge & resources & that others interested in ultilising mutants to gain power seem eager to provide training.

They, of course, are the HELLFIRE CLUB. EMMA FROST actively seeks out & trains mutants. Thus, she fills the need to protect & develop mutants' powers. There is little question, in my opinion, that she fulfills her obligations. So, who is right ?? FROST for providing sanctuary & training - despite her motives ?? Or XAVIER for his magnaminity ??

At present, I would say EMMA FROST. It is quite awhile since all the NEW MUTANTS had a formal training session & I believe XAVIER has become disinteres--ted in his protagees.

Perhaps I am being too critical, but it must be deplorable that a relative of a former X-MAN is recruited by the HELLFIRE CLUB without any attempt being made to attract him to the NEW MUTANTS. XAVIER is clearly ignoring his respon--sibilities & letting selfish interests dominate his life.

BRIAN MORGAN '84



SITTING TENANTS

When the uncanny X-MEN are tear-ing up their mansion, recklessly hounding some evil mutant who has been foolish enough to attack them on their homeground - reducing walls to rubble, collapsing whole floors of the manor - WHERE are the NEW MUTANTS, TEAM AMERICA or ILLYANA RASPUTIN ?? What are they doing ??

When the mansion is in ruins, where do SAM GUTHRIE, DANIELLE MOONSTAR, et al study ?? Have the X-MEN noticed TEAM AMERICA's pres-ence in the house ?? Will the costumed, walking XAVIER still teach his multitude of protegee ??

But the exact number of the dwellings' inhabitants & the PROF-ESSOR's future schooling methods are not being questioned here. The real point of this piece is to determine the reasoning behind XAVIER's policy to educate mutants whose powers enable them to bland together as a fighting team.

Back in the days of the ORIGINAL X-MEN, things were simple. A band of 5 happy-go-lucky students who trained in a very basic DANGER ROOM - which was more like a tough gymnasium - who fought enemies, some evil, some merely warped in their ideals but most of a common species to their 5 adversaries : Homo superior. But the arrivial of the NEW X-MEN resulted in a complication of the school roster. Which of the dozen or so mutants were students of XAVIER's or super-heroes residing within his house ?? As the former group went their own way - either to form new teams or join establis-hed ones, things only settled down only for the STARJAMMERS, ALPHA FLIGHT & the SHI'AR to clutter up PROFESSOR X's loyalties & divide up more of his widely spread time. But even as external links grew in numbers, internal affairs were apparently irrevocably made awkward as they resulted in hardened warr-iors such as WOLVERINE bumping into innocent adolescents eg WOLFS-BANE - such meetings would be extremely embarrassing for one or both. Now TEAM AMERICA also parti-cipate in tests within the mansion & are possibly resented by the others as they are not true mutants to all outward appearances.

It may appear that the history of the house's tenants tends to evade the issue, but now that you have been reminded of the wide range of mutants & mutant abilities involved in XAVIER's idea of what such a person should be able to do to deserve proper guidance in the ultility of their talents.

A current example of XAVIER's apparent bias against less physic-ally benefitted mutants can be found in the case of DOUG RAMSEY. In X-MEN # 180, the PROFESSOR revealed his discovery that RAMSEY was himself a mutant to KITTY PRYDE. He then went onto inform her that his ability was in the field of languages which was not as'demonst-rative as phasing through a wall', thus showing his disinterest in RAMSEY as a possible student at his school. Now I am not saying that the bald telepath should take in every smart alec who happens to be a bit of a whizz with computers, maths, history or whatever,but I suspect that his tendency to ignore the more educationally inclined 'gifted youngster' (which is only right, seeing as how normal colleges & universtities cater for such child-ren) spreads to such abilities as extremely talented sportsmen who maybe quite powerful mutants but whose skills are so latent as to remain undetected by CEREBRO. These maybe difficult to locate but if XAVIER passes them off as less 'demonstrative' all the time he is going to discover a lot of mutants will have wandered from the straight & narrow by their late teens. By this I mean the MASSACHUSETTS ACADEMY seem a lot less fussy about the mutants it subtly persuades to enrol, like DOUG RAMSEY. Admittedly he was most probably a decoy to get KITTY PRYDE within their clutches but I suspect that the Readers of the HELLFIRE CLUB have learnt that there is strength in numbers, espe-cially where super-powered mutants are concerned.

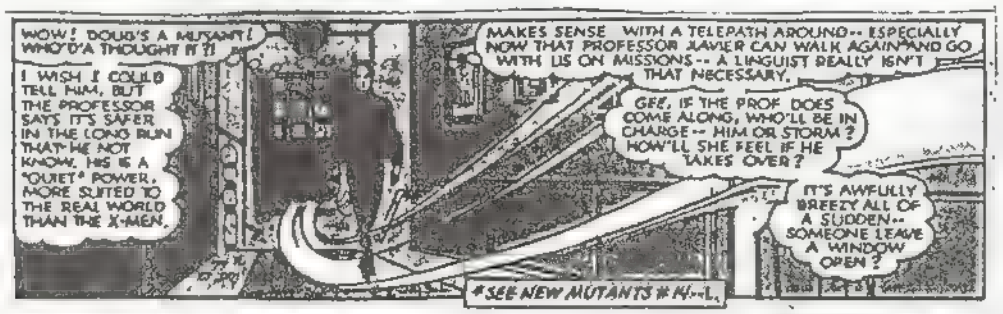
A good thing to remember at this point is that TEAM AMERICA's suppo-sed mutant power is quite unremar-kable. Infact, it takes the comb-ined efforts of all 4 of them to bring about the appearance of the DARK RIDER.

XAVIER is under no obligation to on the impossible amount of 'mutants' covered by my sweeping categorisat-ion, but surely if he has some kind of sense of responsibility when he should put something in motion to prevent future generations of Homo superior from being brain-washed into serving madmen engaged in a quest for power & domination.

Is it fair to bring up the NEW MUTANTS - who are supposed to be a strictly non-super-hero outfit - in such a hostile environment as the headquarters of the X-MEN. The X-MEN should move to a more isolated location leaving the remaining mutants XAVIER has to learn how best to use their powers in safe conditions.

But, what of XAVIER's new cost-umed identity ?? Who will look after his young understudies & TEAM AMERICA then ?? STEVIE HUNTER ?? MOIRA MacTAGGERT (&/or SEAN CASSIDY) ?? Food for thought methinks.

CHRIS BUTLER'84


WOW! DOUG'S A MUTANT! WHO'D'A THOUGHT IT ?!
I WISH I COULD TELL HIM, BUT THE PROFESSOR SAYS IT'S SAFER IN THE LONG RUN THAT HE NOT KNOW. HIS IS A 'QUIET' POWER, MORE SUITED TO THE REAL WORLD THAN THE X-MEN.
MAKES SENSE WITH A TELEPATH AROUND-- ESPECIALLY NOW THAT PROFESSOR XAVIER CAN WALK AGAIN AND GO WITH US ON MISSIONS-- A LINGUIST REALLY ISN'T THAT NECESSARY.
GEE, IF THE PROF. DOES COME ALONG, WHO'LL BE IN CHARGE-- HIM OR STORM? HOW'LL SHE FEEL IF HE TAKES OVER?
IT'S AWFULLY BREEZY ALL OF A SUDDEN-- SOMEONE LEAVE A WINDOW OPEN?
* SEE NEW MUTANTS # 41--L.
©MARVEL

Lead or Teach

PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER seems eventually deemed to make a decision: Either to stay with the X-MEN & be away from the headquarters a lot - as the X-MEN's adventures tend to lead them into more wayward battles away from the school, etc; OR to stay & train the NEW MUTANTS more - being a novice team they seem leaderless & unco-ordinated as they go into battle, etc..

I think that now XAVIER has regained the use of his legs, he feels like taking a more active part in leading the X-MEN (something he has been longing to do for years whilst watching the X-MEN in action from the confines of his wheel chair).

The X-MEN feel that he is probably still treating them as trainees & more so now that he can train & go into action with them physically. ROGUE questioned his order in X-MEN # 181 & quite rightly so - after all, STORM is a very qualified leader. X-MEN such as STORM, COLOSSUS, WOLVERINE & NIGHTCRAWLER need no advice like school children. They are fully qualified 'enemy crushers' (for want of a better title) evan ROGUE & ARIEL are well-capable of coping under combat status & have proven so on many occasions. I say now that the X-MEN as a team no longer need PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER hanging around & butting in.

The NEW MUTANTS though, are another matter. Every escapade they have encountered so far they have blundered into. They badly need a leader-figure who can mould them into a mighty team of the future. XAVIER could go with them into their adventures now he has the use of his legs.

With him being away from the school so long did he miss CEREBRO telling him of more young mutants (the HELLIONS). If so, then he is in a way to blame for them being rerruited by the HELLFIRE CLUB.

Isn't it about time he gave the NEW MUTANTS a better team name ?? A better name would be TEAM-X or THE YOUNG HEROES. I think that either of these names rolls off the tongue better than the NEW MUTANTS. Not that the title of the comic should change. On the contrary, the comic need not become the name of the person or team inside as its title. NEW MUTANTS is a good comic title but it is NOT a good team name. I think a better sounding name would be more appropriate to use in battle.

Finally, will XAVIER be using CEREBRO any more ?? I mean, will the evil mutants beat him to the next new superkids on the scene ??

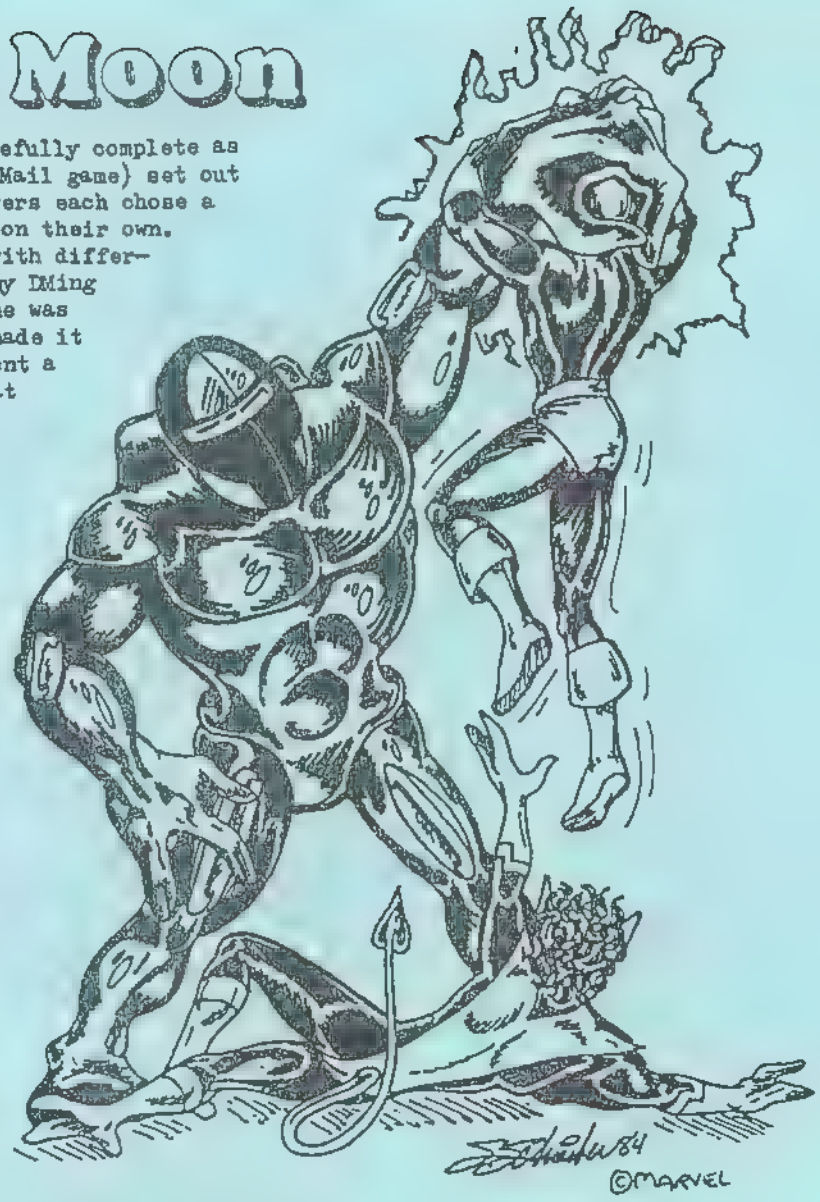
All in all, I think that wherever XAVIER goes he will always have adventures on his tail & a plot behind his ear.

BARRY NEEDHAM'84

The HELLFIRE CLUB don't just recruit young mutants with powers that can only be considered as 'non-combative'. Witness SEBASTIAN SHAW's aide, TESSA: The ideal filing system for confidential information in a perfect total recall photographic assessing memory. How many more of these 'minor' mutants are making the best of their abilities??

LAMPREY'84

Blue Side of the Moon



A little late (me being the master of understatements), but hopefully complete as far as possible. For the new members amongst us, this PBM (Play By Mail game) set out to re-create the events of X-MEN # 137 - the death of PHOENIX. Players each chose a member of either the X-MEN or the IMPERIAL GUARD & from then, were on their own. They had the choice of following the comic or experimenting a bit with differ--ent strategies. The players were great, though I must admit that my DMing was consistently late - a fact which I profusely apologise. Everyone was very consideratedabout it all with not a single complaint - which made it even more embarrasing for me. Thanks, but you really should have sent a few letter bombs in reply to the delays. You lot are far too nice at times.

The cast for this game was : -

THE X-MEN

CYCLOPS (team leader)	: BARRY HOLLAND
JEAN GREY	: CAROL LIVINSTONE
STORM	: MARTIN DRURY
WOLVERINE	: PAUL TRIMBLE
NIGHTCRAWLER	: SIMON WHITE
COLOSSUS	: WAYNE RALPH
ANGEL	: MARTIN BRURY (after STORM was knocked out)
BEAST	: NPC (Non Player Character)

THE IMPERIAL GUARD

GLADIATOR (team leader)	: PAUL CORNELL
MANTA	: PAUL DRURY
WARSTAR	: ADRIAN REYNOLDS
SMASHER	: SIMON FILLIES
EARTHQUAKE, HUSSAR, STARBOLT & ORACLE	: all NPCs

GAME REPORT : Unknown to all the other players prior to the game start, GLADIATOR (PAUL'What do you mean, fair play?'CORNELL) decided to fix the odds slightly onto the side of the IMPERIAL GUARD. He had LILANDRA's people supply him with some equip ment to be hidden on the battle zone. In his infinite subtly, PAUL requested a tactical nuclear device!! LILANDRA felt that such blatent cheating would be hard to disguise & so refused. However, GLADIATOR was supplied with a psionic shield headband, a special room which would lock when entered (though PAUL thoughtfully left a bottle of liquor on ice for the unfortunate occupant) & a special spring platform to catapult anyone standing on it into the air!!! (Well, that's PAUL for you...).

The X-MEN & the IMPERIALS were beamed down into separate sides of the crater battlezone (the X-MEN to the south, the IMP GUARD to the north). CYCLOPS decided to split his team into two. The first group would be led by him & would consist of BEAST, NIGHTCRAWLER & STORM, while the other would be led by JEAN & consist of WOLVERINE, COLOSSUS & ANGEL. COLOSSUS objected to the idea of splitting into two but was overruled. CYCLOPS headed eastwards, while JEAN's team went west. STORM flew ahead as scout for her team, while JEAN scanned ahead for her team.

The IMPERIALS had decided to split into three teams, just to be different. SMASHER, MANTA & WARSTAR were sent eastwards; EARTHQUAKE, HUSSAR & STARBOLT were sent to the west; while GLADIATOR remained behind to co-ordinate everything with ORACLE : who scanned the area for the X-MEN teams.

The first encounter took place when STORM spotted MANTA & SMASHER. Summoning a tornado she attacked them. WARSTAR had been hidden below & took this opportunity to throw a boulder at STORM, missing, but allowing SMASHER to do likewise & hit. MANTA took to the air & blinded STORM with a photonic light burst. STORM hit the ground, her fall cushioned by the BEAST. Meanwhile, her tornado had hit SMASHER who took to the sky to avoid it.

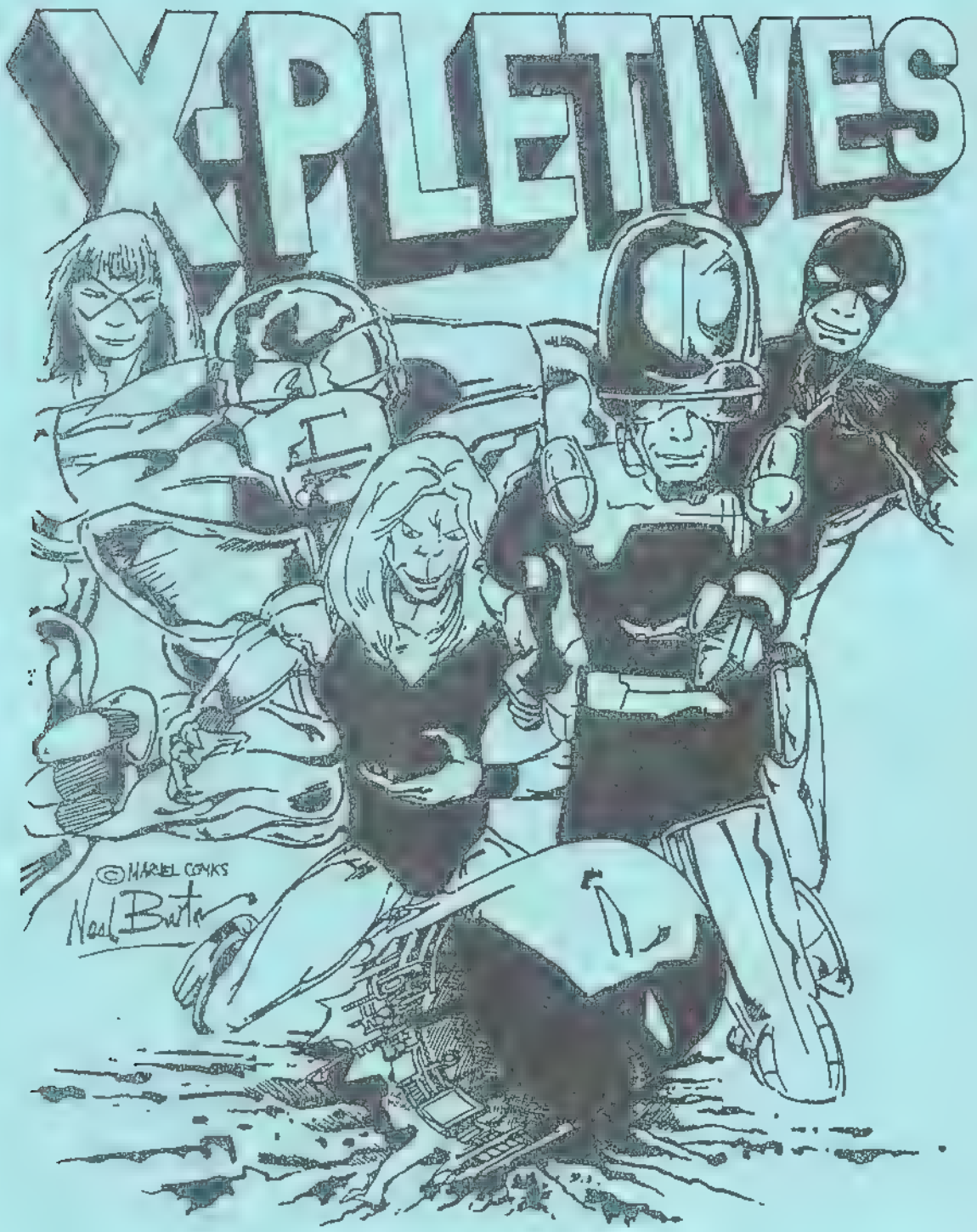
As the two teams closed, CYCLOPS fired at SMASHER who ducked, allowing the beam to hit a very unfortunate BEAST! SMASHER bowled CYKE over with a rock while NIGHTCRAWLER ported onto the back of MANTA & began to slug her. MANTA had been trying to get out of the battlezone when that had happened! With the extra weight on her, she began falling. CYKE shattered the boulder on top of him with an optic blast while the brave BEAST tangled with SMASHER. STORM lay recovering nearby, only to have WARSTAR loom up behind her suddenly. Dodging the first blow she took to the air, only to have B'NEE-half jump at her & release a jolt of electricity through her.

The BEAST took a blow from SMASHER that was aimed at CYCLOPS (it just wasn't HANK's day!), while MANTA hit the floor with a thump nearby (KURT having ported off at the last moment to help CYKE). KURT ported next to SMASHER & fought while WARSTAR flat--tened the hapless BEAST with a boulder. The huge GUARD member then threw the unconscious form of STORM into a nearby ruin out of the way. CYCLOPS blasted SMASHER in the face while KURT whacked away as well. SMASHER then finished BEAST off with a solid punch. While CYCLOPS faced a very battered-looking SMASHER, the two halves of WARSTAR attacked NIGHTCRAWLER by surprise.

MANTA had been given telepathic orders from GLADIATOR to withdraw, which she did. B'NEE continued to wrestle with NIGHT--CRAWLER, & CYCLOPS blasted a high-intensity beam through C'CLL which opened him up quite bad. The hulking machine was hit so hard that it had to stop for self-repair circuits to activate. SMASHER had returned to beat NIGHTCRAWLER up a bit, while B'NEE tried to reach CYCLOPS (a bit hard with KURT hanging onto his back). CYCLOPS brought the ruins round C'CLL down on him, having lured him there in the first place. To his surprise, C'CLL was still standing, though not in very good shape. C'CLL grabbed hold of CYCLOPS & held him aloft triumphantly (CYCLOPS having run out of optic blasts with his high-intensity shots) shouting : 'Men Of Terra, we are WARSTAR. We hold your leader here as you see & we will crush his skull unless your attacks stop!'

Meanwhile, JEAN's team had also run into some action. Scanning ahead, she detected EARTHQUAKE, HUSSAR & STARBOLT. With a grin, WOLVERINE went ahead to take them on. WOLVIE slashed STARBOLT, avoided EARTHQUAKE's ground tremor & struck HUSSAR. With the advantage of surprise, COLOSSUS charged forward & the ANGEL took to the air. JEAN hid within watching distance. WOLVIE continued carving every--one up while STARBOLT opened up at COLOSSUS & EARTHQUAKE flew boulders at ANGEL. ANGEL punched EARTHQUAKE in unison with a psionic blast from JEAN. COLOSSUS reached a panic--king STARBOLT who threw flame everywhere to stop him. ANGEL flew once again at EARTHQUAKE, but in dodging missiles bumped into a surprised WOLVERINE. As both fell for a moment, EARTHQUAKE opened up a crevice underneath them. WOLVIE dropped like a stone while ANGEL flew down after him.

EARTHQUAKE brought masonry down round COLOSSUS while STARBOLT gave him a nice roasting. JEAN distracted EARTH--QUAKE with a psionic assault, simultaneously as COLOSSUS punched HUSSAR & knocked her out. COLOSSUS was left facing two opponents, so he ripped out a large girder to hit STARBOLT with. His second blow knocked STARBOLT out, leaving just EARTHQUAKE to deal with. The aforementioned GUARD member sent more rocks at a dazed COLOSSUS but didn't notice JEAN levitate a rock above his head & then drop it. With a heavy thud it knocked him out too. Down below, WOLVERINE had encountered 'WARSTAR'- the SKRULL rep in reality. The SKRULL failed to take LOGAN by surprise & was quickly defeated. During the battle, GLADIATOR had made psionic contact with JEAN GREY telling her to put a stop to all this mass conflict by meeting him at the IMP GUARD landing spot.



CONSIDERING THAT SO MANY OF YOU ARE REVISING &/OR DOING EXAMS, WE'VE HAD A VERY HEALTHY RESPONSE THIS TIME. NOT QUITE THE CLUB RECORD AT 43 BUT CLOSE. IF YOU REALLY WANT TO SEE WHAT THE LAMPREY WILL DO IF HE GETS EVERYONE TO RESPOND IS TO TRY IT & SEE. FOR NOW, LETS HEAR WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY THIS TIME, STARTING WITH...

X-FAN # 513 This is the first time I have written to you guys since I posted my membership subscription off all of 3 issues ago. I have deliberated for a long time as to how to approach your society, but I have finally decided to do so in these terms of humble familiarity since I feel I know you so well. After all, it is to ME that these marvellous repositories of wit & wisdom, which give such insights to the (MARVEL) universe are addressed. I rise each morning in a fever of anticipation & the disappointment I feel whenever the postman passes without a letter for me is akin to the anguish SCOTT SUMMERS felt when JEAN GREY, his beloved, died. But on those mornings when he arrives bearing a parcel from thee...

Oh, on those mornings, I rise shining like the DAZZLER. I charge downstairs like the RHINO. I cut across anything blocking my path like WOLVERINE & I scream like SYREN when I reach my goal. If it turns out to be a bill, I make it vanish like NIGHTCRAWLER. And all because I love the X-MEN.. **& NOT MILK TRAY ?? TRULY A SIGHT TO BEHOLD.**

Well, gentlemen & ladies & MIKE TEAGUE (I've never met the guy, but his perversity radiates forth from the pages like MAGNETO's electromagnetic waves - I like him!).

So that, folks, is that. Just one thing bothers me: When can I open the first envelope ??

TONY KEHOE'84

WHEN YOU'VE OPENED THIS ONE & FOUND THAT I'VE GIVEN PERMISSION TO DO SO.

X-FAN # 429 The cover of # 19 was a very definite improvement on the last, even the green & yellow added to the black inks. Very reminiscent of PAT BRODERICK (how about him on the X-MEN ??) in structure of the figures & the humourous touch was nice. Skipping over the editorial & those all important CLUB OFFERS, I'd just like to offer an impression or two of the 2nd part of the WEEZIE-view. Perhaps I'm sinking into paranoia, but certain parts of the interview gave me the distinct impression that MARVEL gives much more of a damn about the more recent readers of the X-MEN than those who have followed the series from early on.

I CAN SEE HER POINT THOUGH, ESPECIALLY IF YOU APPLY THE 5 YEAR READERSHIP TURNOVER THEORY, THAT WOULD MAKE NEWER READERS OUTNUMBER THE OLDER ONES, AS CALLOUS AS IT SOUNDS. WEEZIE made a few disparging comments about both JOHN BYRNE's efforts on the book, surely the best period of creativity that the book has EVER seen, & also dismissed the need for a 'historical perspective' on those early issues. Now, I'm not fanatical about the X-MEN but I do feel that for several years it offered the most exciting, innovative & bloody readable set of characters in MARVEL's history ranking, in my opinion, with the best of GERBER's characterisations & for WEEZIE to dismiss that with the comments, 'That was an interesting time....but I don't think it was their peak'. It WAS the summit of CLAREMONT's efforts on the book & has yet to be surpassed, an eventuality that may never come to be unless another strong-willed artist makes CLAREMONT strengthen up characterisation & plotting. Her point about the difference between a CLAREMONT script drawn by BYRNE & one drawn by COCKRUM side-stepped the fact that it was BYRNE who saved the book from unbearable melodrama. Shame on you, WEEZIE. **I THINK IT ALLOWED A GREATER INSIGHT INTO WHAT COUNTS AT EDITING FOR MARVEL, NAMELY YOU CAN'T LIVE ON PAST GLORIES.**

STEVE WHATLEY echoed several of my own postulations about PROJECT: WIDEAWAKE & its effects on mutants. I think that the problem lies not so much in the fact that mutants are powerful but that most of them are outwardly normal & it is this 'enemy within' situation that engenders paranoia & loathing in the normal MARVEL human being. The 'are they human' issue is easily resolved: They are. Ordinary humans are classed as Homo homo sapiens, so mutants would be Homo homo superior (I've always thought that the term 'superior' is also a factor in human disaffection towards mutants). I only hope ye CLAREMONT doesn't build up everyone's expectations & then fall flat on his face by churning out boring stories along the lines of the 'mysterious disappearance of mutants' plot that was suggested. **SOMETHING HE & BYRNE COLLABORATED UPON INCIDENTALLY. THIS ALL DEPENDS ON WHO IS HOLDING THE EDITORIAL RUG UNDER HIM.**

I hated the MARVEL UNIVERSE HANDBOOK concept right from the word 'go'. The idea of cataloguing & defining powers & abilities is so pseudo-scientific & pretentious that I couldn't be bothered to collect it after the initial 3 issues. Likewise, the BREAKDOWN data bores me to tears. Just what is the purpose of assembling all of those numbers & ratios ??
THERE'S ALWAYS BEEN AN INTEREST IN WHAT MAKES THE CHARACTERS TICK, ALTHOUGH ITS SOMETHING WHICH THE ACTIVE PART OF FANDOM TRIES TO AVOID - THE BREAKDOWNS PROVIDE THE OUTLET.

Incidentally, I'd take issue with one of the measurements given for the darkforce effect. A sphere of 780 cubic feet would measure about 5½ feet from the centre in any direction & in THE CHAMPIONS, DARKSTAR transports the entire group in a sphere decidedly larger. Get your sums right, its more likely to be 2-3000 cubic feet. Apart from that quibble, the article was so-so.
NOW WHO'S REFERRING TO THE HANDBOOK?? DEPENDING ON HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, THIS COULD BE CORRECTING A PREVIOUS ERROR & MAKING DARKSTAR LESS POWERFUL.

I got the feeling with the article on GRAVITONS that you'd been reading back-issues of OMNI & NEW SCIENTIST

because it came over as layman's guide to O/A level physics. I could have whipped up the same thing with the aid of PEAR'S CYCLOPAEDIA & ELEMENTARY PHYSICS II. Also, if you'd done your homework on stress in materials you'd know that the elasticity of a 15-30 ft long iron girder easily allows for it to be swung around without warping to any great extent. There IS a massive accelerative thrust at the outermost tip but most of the energy is dissipated in vibration before it warps the metal. And artists seem to go to great lengths of late to show that BEN GRIMM, et al, don't use just their wrists to pick up & throw things, so your GRAVITON FIELD THEORY is shot to hell. Sorry. **THE GIRDER WAS USED AS A GENERAL EXAMPLE. I COULD HAVE BEEN MORE SPECIFIC & STATED EXAMPLES SUCH AS SASQUATCH THROWING AN AIRPLANE IN X-MEN # 120 OR EVEN HIS GETTING A SHIP OFF A SANDBANK. SINCE PRESS WEIGHTING PUTS PRESSURE ON THEIR WRISTS, I THINK THE GENERAL THEORY HOLDS TRUE STILL.**

Your points about the economic/social/political effects of a freely-available GRAVITON generator are well taken & echo the sentiments of those of us who have wondered, for many years, why the advanced technology available to super-types has never been exploited in the MARVEL UNIVERSE. Trying to make comics more realistic creates as many glitches as it solves. **BUT THINGS CAN IMPROVE IF THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE GROUND RULES ARE TIDIED UP.**

EXPLORING ESP was a bit of an embarrassment. I couldn't decide whether MR. NISBET was coning it or if he'd decided that the truth about psi-phenomena was too vital to be casually disclosed to we mere mortals. Still, I'm sure that there a lot of readers who found some interest in the article. I just wish that I had.

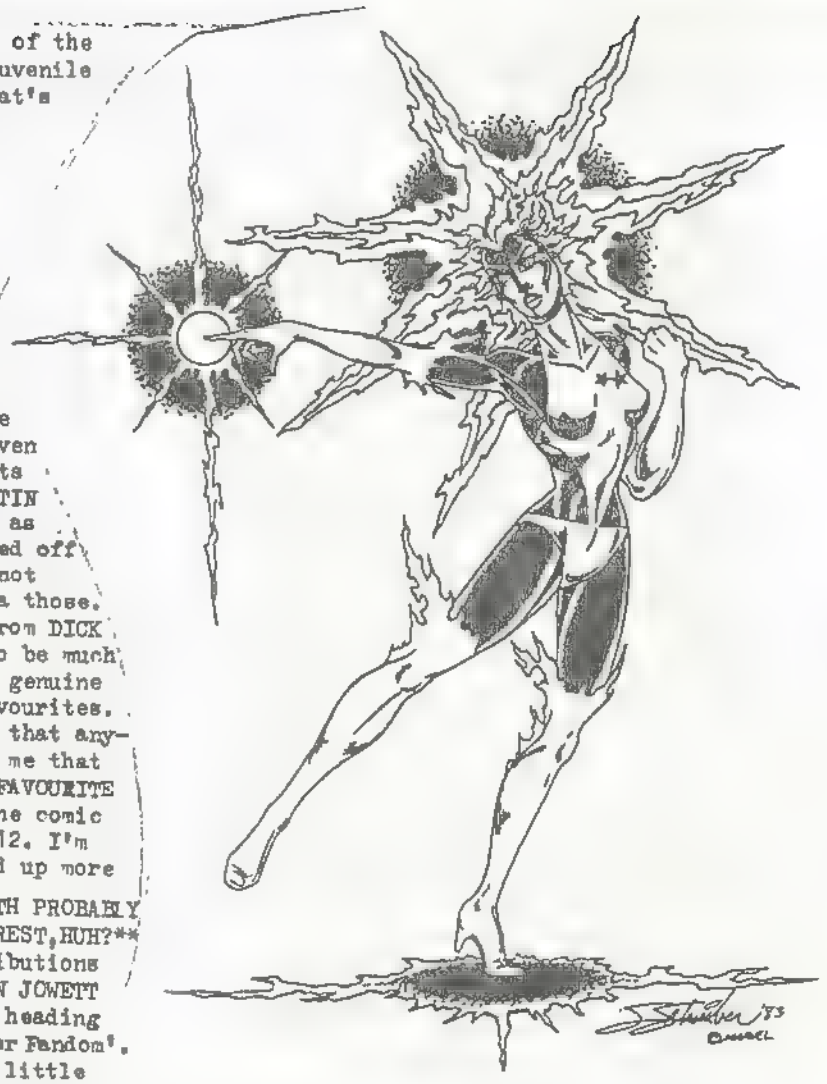
Quite a long read in X-PLETIVES but nothing too important that I feel constrained to add my own 2p-worth. Its probably the most consistently good feature of the whole zine, although some of the letters are still a bit juvenile & embarrassing. Still, that's the writing style of the individual LoCers, not a reflection on CEREBRO.

The controversy about the EAGLES continues. MARTIN SKIDMORE has also expressed some dissatisfaction about not only the printed results but those entries that weren't printed & he's stated a good case for accusing the counters of lethargy or even criminal rigging of results in my opinion (though MARTIN didn't actually go as far as to say that). I'm so pissed off with the EAGLES that I'm not going to bother voting via those. I'll use the FFF AWARDS from DICK DOMAR's TOE, which seem to be much less elite & cliquish & a genuine reflection of the true favourites. There's absolutely no way that anyone is going to convince me that out of 130 PASSES in the FAVOURITE COMIC BOOK section, not one comic garnered more than RAW's 12. I'm certain that KA-ZAR picked up more than 12 for a start. **WITH PROBABLY THE X-MEN PICKING UP THE REST, HUH?**

I guess that the contributions from MARTIN FISHER & SIMON JOWETT are to be filed under the heading 'A Better Britain, A Better Fandom'. Soul-stirring stuff but a little out of place perhaps. Then again, am I wrong in criticising you for trying something a bit different?? CAROL's MAGIK piece wasn't prime material, but served its purpose in conveying her ideas about the mini-series quite well.

I suspect that the North of England maybe trailing by a few episodes when it comes to SPIDER-MAN & HIS AMAZING FRIENDS, so I may yet see the X-MEN animata. FIONA evidently shared my fascination for see 3-D versions (in a sense) of 2-D comic-book characters, which is nice. Its a weird feeling.

I did enjoy very much the COLOSSUS article by PAUL HAYWARD. NIGHTCRAWLER, CYCLOPS & COLOSSUS are very under-developed characters, even after 90 issues, & I'd dearly love to see PETER RASPUTIN interact more with team-members other than KITTY. Ditto KURT. Its astonishing how CLAREMONT has been allowed to stultify development within the team by restricting the members to little cliques such as PETER & KITTY, KURT & LOGAN, PETER & LOGAN, STORM & KITTY & has missed the beautiful chance of showing just how much os a pseudo-family they are supposed to be. Another slap on the wrist for CHRIS.



SEAN ROBERTS echoed sentiments I've expressed about comics in a spoof article in WORLDS COLLIDE, proably under the CASSANDRA pseudonym again &, as my own isn't too serious an effort, I'll take SEAN's with a pinch of salt. There are some interesting points raised though...

The WOLVERINE INDEX was informative, if you like that sort of thing, & there is only one glaring error: WOLVERINE didn't 'find' that he had claws after HUDSON found him; they were implanted in him by the CANADIAN GOVERNMENT as part of the PROJECT ALPHA brief. That is made quite clear in the X-MEN (# 139 - 140/??). **NO ITS NOT! ALL IT STATES IS THAT THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT TURNED HIM FROM BEING A SCRAPPER TO AN UNEQUALABLE KILLER, NOT FOR THE SKELETON OR IMPLANTS. ANY CLAIMS TO THIS THOUGH COULD BE THOUGHT OF AS MEANS TO CLAIM EXTRA BUDGET FUNDS OR BRAGGING SO AS TO APPEAR THAT THEIR TECHNOLOGY WAS GREATER THAN IT WAS (ASSUMING THAT WOLVERINE ACQUIRED THESE MODIFICATIONS SOMETIME BEFORE 1963).** I don't understand why MARVEL don't start up a second X-MEN COMIC. It would certainly allow for greater development with plots & characterisation & it wouldn't dilute CLAREMONT's dedication at all, as long as they kept it to two. NEW MUTANTS does overlap at times, but it can't really extend that without failing to maintain the focus on the younger mutants.

RAI DAVIES '84

X-FAN # 508 # 19 appealed a lot to me. First, there was the cover. Very nice indeed - is it the work of a Club member or a professional ?? The slight mistake in head/body proportions suggests the former, but there are some nice touches present: the cigar smoke, CYCLOPS' suit & the different styles of inking being the most notable. Highlights of the cover, however, must be the titling - very neat, very professional & above all, eye-catching.

Oops, mustn't leave out the colour scheme - once more it was attractive & helps the zine stand out.

The concluding part of the LOUISE JONES INTERVIEW didn't fail to deliver the goods. Very entertaining & equally interesting (the illo of COLOSSUS on page 9 was also very good - nice style, obviously influenced by PAUL SMITH).

I haven't yet read MR. WHATLEY's article, PROJECT: WIDEAWAKE, as I scanned the page & saw the word 'GOVERNMENT', it put me off. The full page masterpiece on the adjacent page however caught my attention. I don't think BYRNE, SIENKIEWICZ, BOLTON or DAVIS have anything to fear from the creator of this, but the fact that it has been given a full page secured its success as an eye-catcher. Lotsa detail, too!

Nice article about the SILVER SAMURAI & onto the MARVEL UNIVERSE section. Although comics are far from mature nowadays then, say, in the early 70s & tend to concern themselves with deep characterisation & credibility at the expense of super-hero slugfests, part of me still welcomes this sort of stuff. I still like to join in the age old debate of 'who's stronger: HULK or the THING ?' Or is 'QUICKSILVER faster than the FLASH ?' Knowing which MARVEL character is the strongest appeals to that side of me. Infact, the lowspot of this issue has to be discovering that the HULK can only lift 90 tons.

ME & MY DARKFORCE SHADOW didn't do much for me. I think you have to be in the mood to read stuff like that. The NIGHTCRAWLER illo was good though, showing a competent use of light & shadow. The stuff about GRAVITONS, physics & other incomprehensible words was also hard to digest. Nice try though, GEOFF.

The interview with the parapsychologist was interesting however; which comes as a surprise considering I'm generally against all things even remotely to do with science. **PARDON ME. DOES THAT MEAN YOU NEVER WATCH THE TELEVISION OR PLAY A RADIO THEN? PRACTICALLY EVERYTHING YOU TOUCH HAS SOME SORT OF SCIENCE BEHIND IT.**

This, however, was good stuff & I found myself at the end of it all wishing BRADY CLARKE had made the interview 'deeper' - a guy can really get wrapped up in that stuff.

Oh yeah, very nice picture of a woman on page 26. The one wearing bondage gear, that is!! Drool, drool. Not to say that the other was bad - it wasn't (neither was page 27's), its just that I'm a PERVERT!!!

Some interesting letters around in X-PLETIVES & we're back onto the articles again. OF KABBAGES & KINGS - an old arguement now but well-written & important to be aware of. WHO CARES reminded me of a 6th form R.E. lesson. ITS MAGIK I skipped as I hated the limited series & PAUL HAYWARD's article on COLOSSUS I loved & agreed with totally.

The ABSURD MUTANTS brought a smile (no more, no less) & the WOULD YOU LET YOUR KIDS READ COMICS TODAY thing was OK. Do you get the feeling that after the 'Video-nasty' controversy has subsided, the Government will direct its attention towards comics ?? I'd say it was inevitable. **ITS NOT SO MUCH THE GOVERNMENT, BUT THE MINNORITY GROUPS WHO BELIEVE THEY KNOW WHAT THE KIDS SHOULD READ. THEY TEND TO LOBBY U.K. COMICS A LOT (& GET THEIR WAY IN MANY CASES. THE FUNNY COMICS ARE REALLY SCREWED UP THESE DAYS) & HAVEN'T QUITE GOT ONTO MPs YET.**

Another interesting point on page 51 was my discovery of WOLVERINE's little known power of 'enlargening'. I suppose it comes in handy when travelling over rough terrain - the rocks, dykes, ditches, etc - should be no problem for those legs. I was also startled to see that LOGAN's a pervert, 'I'm next, I'm next WOLVIE. You know I've always loved you.' On the whole, however, it was a good piece of work. Just a pity about the legs...

Well, I think I've rambled enough, suffice to say, GEOFF, that # 19 was very good. The articles varied & most were long enough to have the desired effect. Some nice artwork present throughout & 'member partisi-pation' in the form of the SURVEY. Neat, professional & still good value for money. But surely the HULK can lift more than 90 tons...

TOM FARNHILL'84

BUT ONLY WHEN HE'S ANGRY.

X-FAN # 294

I noticed from the letter page this issue that a lot of other people are disenchanted with the X-MEN & their spin-offs at the moment. I, myself, have stopped buying the X-MEN, NEW MUTANTS, ALPHA FLIGHT, etc, as the stories are really boring & repetitive. Does anyone remember the hype for the NEW MUTANTS before they came out ?? How it was going back to the original purpose of the X-MEN being a school. How it was going to be different from anything we've read before. How they were going to examine relevant social issues & the pains of growing up ??

All we got were SENTINELS, a love triangle, yet another hidden civilization & the now obligatory powerful female mutant. Bo-ring!

PAYS NEVER TO READ HYPE, DOESN'T IT ?? I DUNNO. I THINK IT MAY BE UPTO THE INDIVIDUAL AS TO WHAT HE OR SHE GETS OUT OF A BOOK. DO YOU EVER PEAK TO SEE IF THEY'VE DONE ANYTHING TO CHANGE YOUR ATTITUDE ?? I FIND THE BEST WAY TO TREAT THE COMICS I READ IS ON A MONTHLY BASIS IN TERMS OF CONTINUED STORIES. CERTAIN THEMES ARE LIKELY TO COME UP TIME & AGAIN SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY ARE REVALENT TO THE BOOK. A KEY THEME OF THE X-MEN, AS AN EXAMPLE, IS REPRESSION.

MARVEL seem to be milking the X-MEN for all their worth with the Ex-X-MEN in the shape of the DEFENDERS, numerous mini-series starring some or all of the X-MEN, graphic novels, FANFARE appearances, team-ups, reprints, UNIVERSE, cross-overs, indexes, WHAT IFs, spin-off titles like ALPHA FLIGHT, DAZZLER, THE NEW MUTANTS, etc, etc, etc.. You need a small fortune to keep up with all the different comics. **ITS CALLED CAPITALISING ON A SUCCESSFUL PRODUCT. IT WASN'T THAT MANY CEREBROS AGO THAT MEMBERS WERE ASKING WHY THE X-MEN WEREN'T MAKING MORE APPEARANCES ELSEWHERE IN MARVEL COMICS. SUCH ARE THE TRAPPINGS OF SUCCESS, I GUESS.**

In # 19, I liked the drawing of

THE UNCANNY X-OUTING!

AS TOLD BY JOHN SHORT No3

LONDON, 1984, THE FAN CLUB ARE TRYING TO FIND SOMEWHERE TO EAT...
LOOK HERE'S LAMPREY-MAN. HE'S COMING BACK FROM ANOTHER FAST-FOOD PLACE.
I ♥ WOLVERINE
KICK ME
I WONDER IF THERE WAS SPACE IN THAT ONE.
THERE WAS PLENTY OF SPACE IN THERE, BUT THE HEAD WAITER SAID THEY WERE FULL UP!
THAT'S NOT FAIR! DID YOU TELL HIM YOURE IN THE X-MEN FAN-CLUB?
X-MEN FOREVER
BAM!
DID YOU TELL HIM HOW MUCH INFLUENCE WE HAVE?
YEP.
PHOENIX
WELL WHAT DID HE SAY?
HE SAID HE WAS IN THE HELLFIRE CLUB...
... THEN HE SHOWED ME HOW MUCH INFLUENCE THEY'D GOT...
WE'RE THE HELLFIRE CLUB KILLER TAXI DRIVERS SQUAD, PREPARE TO DIE!
TO BE CONTINUED.

SUNFIRE on page 35 by DANNY REDDEN as he went to the trouble of finding out the Japanese/Chineses chara--cter for '5'. A nice touch, DANNY, & appreciated.

The BREAKDOWNS of the MARVEL UNIVERSE were quite interesting but I can't say I'm bothered about who can beat who at flying, fighting, etc.. What I would like to know is what is the latest count on the number of mutants in the MARVEL UNIVERSE. In # 14, you gave a list of 80, but I reckon it must be around 100-120 now, with all the new mutant groups that have popped up. Is there any chance of an update of the list in that issue, using the new data from MARVEL UNIVERSE?? **YEP. I'VE GOT IDEAS ALONG THAT DIRECTION. WHICH WOULD PREFER ?? AN ALPHABETICAL LISTING OR A GROUP SEGREGATION WHERE MUTANTS WITH SIMILAR POWERS ARE BUNCHED TOGETHER. LET ME KNOW, MEMBERS.**

The BANG! dolls seem to be catching on with some of your members. If the general public get hold of them, before long they could be rivaling the cabbage patch dolls & GEOFF & FIONA could retire millionaires. Wouldn't that be nice ??

ANDY WALLACE'84

X-FAN # 511

I agree with GEOFF about the criticism of CEREBRO's content. This is the fanzine of the X-MEN FAN CLUB. It should just specialize in the X-MEN & related comics. If anyone wants regular news & articles on, say, DAREDEVIL or underground comics, they can buy some other fanzines. Anyone buying this or subscribing to it must know what to expect, after all, it does say 'X-MEN FAN CLUBZINE' to that effect on the cover. Apart from that, everything in CEREBRO is contributed by members of the Club, so its cont--ents should satisfy the majority of its readers, shouldn't it ??

Anyway, the latest issue was good, especially the informative interview with the parapsychologist, the PROJECT: WIDEAWAKE & APATHY? WHO CARES articles. Keep up the good work.

TRACY WILLIAMS'84

X-FAN # 186

Oh, I cringe. My semblance of knowledge is stripped from my oh so humble self. Our omnipot--ent leader LAMPREY has shown me the light & my inclination to make presumptive remarks or gosh, ever dare to render an opinion before the Grand Vizier of UK comic fandom is reduced to less than dust.

I did not know JOHN ROMITA Jr was a free-lance, but to be honest neither this fact, nor my deifying remarks about ELRIC change my essential point. Mr. ROMITA, fine artist though he is, is not upto the extremely high standard that we X-viewers have been led (or misled) to expect from a publication that has proved it has the potential to be the BEST. **I WASN'T HAVING A GO AT YOUR OPINIONS - YOU'RE WELCOME TO THEM. I JUST HEARD SIMILAR COMMENTS WHEN PAUL SMITH STARTED ON THE X-MEN. ITS ONLY REALLY FAIR TO GIVE THE ARTIST AT LEAST 6 ISSUES TO SETTLE IN & THEN CRITISE THE WORK THAT FOLLOWS. THE X-MEN HAS A BOOK HAS MORE CHARACTERS WITH SEPARATE BODY LANGUAGES RUNNING THROUGH ITS PAGES REGULARLY THAN ANY OTHER BOOK, SHORT OF THE ISH - & THAT TITLE HAD TO LEARN TO LIMIT THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE APPEARING IN IT! **

Onto other matters...That jolly interesting article by MR. JOWETT regarding apathy, unless you are, like me, standing (or indeed reclining with a glass of wine & a good book) on the other side of the fence. Imagine, if you would, a world where no one was violently capitalist or communist & they didn't CARE about expanding their societies. Or a world where there were no terrorists who CARED so much about their often lunatic causes.

There is a very clear distinction in apathy - those who refuse to care (us conscientious abstainers) & those who don't have the where-with-all to care. I do have opinions, but I don't believe in forcing them upon people - in your view does that make me socialist or facist ?? I don't care!!

YOU'LL HAVE TO DEFINE 'FORCE'. I MEAN, NO ONE FORCES YOU TO READ & WRITE. YOU DO SO OUT OF YOUR OWN FREE WILL OUT OF SELF-MOTIVATION OR ENCOURAGE--MENT. ALL THREE OF THESE IN SOME COUNTRIES ARE SO RESTRICTED THAT ITS A SHAME WHERE WE HAVE THE PRIVILAGE, SO FEW CARE TO USE THAT FREEDOM.

Onto other matters...Wasn't # 19 good. The print--ing & production & layout was all beyond fault & the contents intellectual stimula.of the very highest order.

Isn't SECRET WARS # 1 a nasty piece of work. You don't read, you feel the exposition. MAGNETO is scripted like a DEATHBIRD & HAWKEYE seems like an unbalanced bigot. Lets be optimistic, it might get better.

And finally, I saw GENESIS on the 29th & it was incredible. Really amazing. How many others went ??

And finally, finally. Last issue's prediction on issue was very accurate, although the MARILLION album was late. # 20 should be out about the middle of JUNE (perhaps RUSH's album will be out by then). That's all.

STEVE PANKHURST'84

MAYBE I SHOULD LET STEVE PUCK MY DEADLINES, HUH ??

X-FAN # 542

19! My first issue as a member (though I do have # 16 & 17) & what a good issue. Another classic cover from PETE MARTIN (though I still feel # 16's cover to be best) & the whole issue cont--inued in that vein.

Nice LOUISE JONES INTERVIEW - has she some sort of chip on her shoulder regarding JOHN BYRNE ?? I wonder. Loved the illo on page 13, but if KELLY knows about PROJECT:WIDEAWAKE, the article RING AROUND THE SENATOR(in # 16) would be superfluous as KELLY would know about any action being taken regarding mutants. **THAT ARTICLE DIDN'T REALLY CONCERN WIDEAWAKE. KELLY JUST WANTED TO FIND OUT WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DAMAGE DONE IN THE BIG APPLE DURING THE X-MEN/BROOD STORY-LINE & ALL HE GOT WAS REBUTTALS & DENIALS FOR HIS TROUBLE. AS FAR AS CAN BE SEEN, WIDEAWAKE IS NOT UNDER S.H.I.E.L.D. JURISDICTION & I'D BE AWFULLY INTERESTED IN SEEING NICK FURY'S REACTION TO IT.**

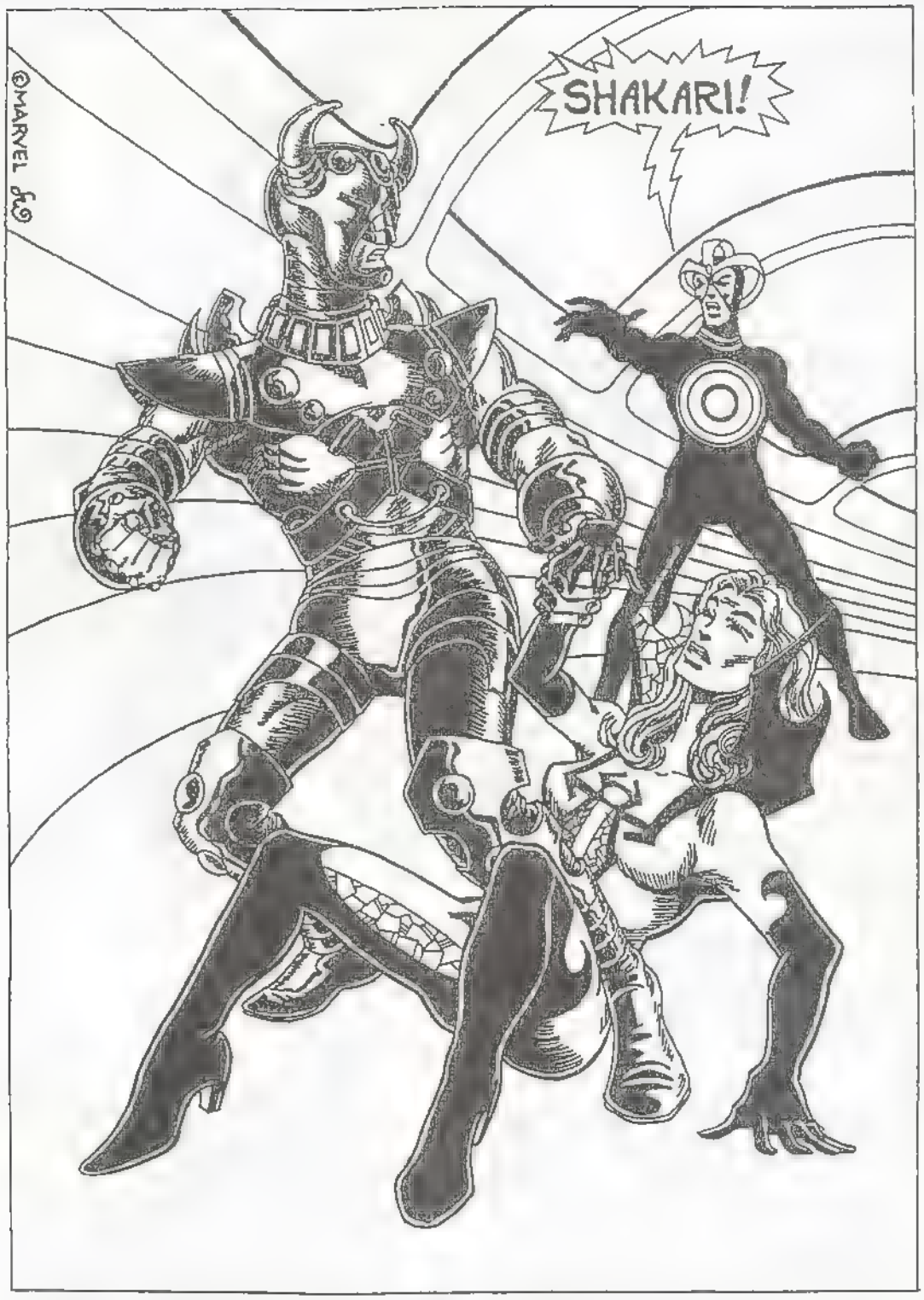
Reading the X-PLETIVES, I noticed an illo of LOGAN on page 31 by ROGER GIBSON & it bears a certain resemblance to a BUTCH GUICE poster of WOLVIE (which I have.) from SPIDER-MAN & HIS AMAZING FRIENDS # 565. **SINCE BOTH WERE DATED THIS CAN EASILY BE DISCOUNTED. ROGER DID HIS IN 1984 & BUTCH'S WAS IN 1983 & I SWEAR I DIDN'T SHOW HIM.**

HISTORY OF ABSURD MUTANTS - how can you let IAN write such stuff, GEOFF ??

WHO LETS HIM ?? HE JUST SENDS IT IN.

Still, its good reading. What a good WOLVERINE INDEX (especially the cover). How--ever, I've a gripe about LOGAN. In X-MEN # 152, he has a collar around his neck inhibiting his mutant abilities. In MARVEL UNIVERSE # 15, it is carefully explained that he was not born with his claws, they were added later. Therefore, the inhibitor collar should not have stopped him using his claws. Is this another BULLPEN goof or have I missed something ??

**NOPE. YOU JUST RAISED A VERY INTERESTING POINT. I CAN'T SEE SUCH A FIELD RESTRICTING HIS RETRO-METABOLISM ALTHOUGH IT MIGHT TAKE THE FINE EDGE OFF HIS SENSES. CONSIDERING THE SITUATION HE WAS IN I WOULDN'T MIND BETTING THAT WOLVERINE WAS NOT GOING TO ADMIT THAT THE INHIBITOR FIELD HAD NO EFFECT ON HIM, BUT COULD HARDLY DO ANYTHING WHILE HIS TEAM-MATES WERE HELD CAPTIVE. WHEN HE WAS TAKEN AWAY BY LELAND & THE GOONS THAT BROBLEM WAS REMOVED & ONCE LEFT FOR DEAD IT WOULD ONLY TAKE SECONDS TO USE HIS CLAWS ON HIS



HIS BONDS. ALTHOUGH THIS WAS NOT SHOWN, THIS THEORY TENDS TO FIT THE EVENTS. IF YOU GO BACK AS FAR AS X-MEN ≠ 97, WOLVERINE'S METABOLIC READINGS GIVE UNUSUAL MUTANT READINGS.**

Onto comics: Although X-MEN ≠ 177 really disappointed me, ≠ 179 salvaged the story. I still say JOHN ROMITA Jr can't draw KITTY. PAUL SMITH is the first artist I've seen who can draw her in all her beauty (BYRNE was good, but he drew a much younger KITTY).That last panel of ≠ 179 - wonderful.

BYRNE is getting better on the FF. ≠ 261 onwards have been really good artwise. Could be GLYNIS WEIN's colours - really deep blues & greens. The stories are OK though. ALPHA FLIGHT isn't too bad, but the NEW MUTANTS is better. NM ≠ 13 was good - there's sure to be shocks somewhere after what happened to that SENTINEL. DEFENDERS is disappointing me. The issue before ≠ 120 are the ones I like most. I think its the art. DEFENDERS used to be a fun book. Just look at ≠ 115 for an example of its humour, but now with the SECRET EMPIRE story, all that seems to have changed. Well, I for one didn't enthuse over the WOLVERINE MINI-SERIES. MAGIK was much better - perhaps because I enjoy supernaturally based stories. I also liked the X-MEN/MICRONAUTS MINI-SERIES, although I wish they would forget the DARK PHOENIX storyline. I know it did well, but still what's the point of rehashing old plots ?? (BUTCH GUICE would make a good X-Artist). **XAVIER'S DARKER SIDE HARKENS BACK BEFORE THE PHOENIX STORYLINE (CHECK OUT X-MEN ≠ 17 & ≠ 106).** Please tell me I'm wrong - I've got this terrible feeling that KITTY is soon to be an X-BABY. I feel like this because she is in the advertisement for SECRET WARS with the other X-MEN, but she wasn't in the actual comic when I bought ≠ 1.

ANDY BERMAN'84

SHE GETS AROUND A LOT.

X-FAN ≠ 280 Well, first of all I must say that I thought that ≠ 19 was definately the best yet. The standard of writing & art in the zine has markedly improved even since the last issue & the mixture overall was better, being neither too serious or light-hearted.

Unfortunately, I feel that the X-MEN COMIC itself is not as good as it could be, though it improved when SMITH came along. I think that CLAREMONT isn't putting 100% in at the moment, more like 70%, though most writers' 100% isn't as good as his 70%. The NEW MUTENTS certainly isn't anything to write home about. I don't like the team anyway. They are too stereo-typed & lacking in interest. The plots are too juvenile & I feel CLAREMONT is writing down to his audience on this book, catering for the lowest common denominator.

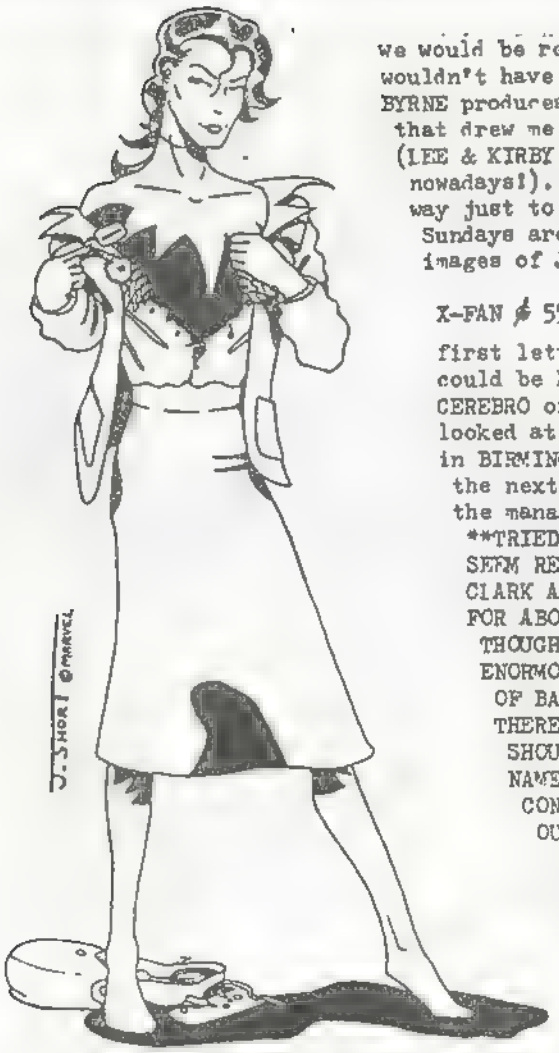
I don't like to be over-nostalgic, but I think that the X-MEN COMIC has never reached the standard of the issues BYRNE drew. ROMIRA Jr is a good artist though & I'm sure he'll get better, but I hope the scripting improves soon. At the moment though, I don't enjoy the X-MEN COMIC half as much as say LSH or TEEN TITANS. Wouldn't it be nice to have a cross-over with the SENTINELS attacking the NEW MUTANTS & X-MEN at the same time. ThenPROF XAVIER could call on all the former X-MEN to help. Ah well, we can always dream.

A recent new comic which reminds me of the old X-MEN COMIC is called the DNAGENTS. Its about a group of supop-powered teen-agers & I'd recommend it to anyone looking for a thoughtfully scripted comic with a nice sense of humour. RICHARD ARMSTRONG'84

X-FAN ≠ 386 S'funny, but I always thought that 'backlash' was confined to the music papers. Fans can be so fickle. The 'SMITH BACKLASH' can't be too far away. Ho hum. But why all this fuss about ROMITA ?? Hasn't anyone been reading the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN lately ?? ROMITA has been progressing with leaps & bounds, the best issue to date probably being ≠ 249, where the DAN GREEN finishes mesh perfectly. ROMITA seems to have a good, clear approach to layouts, physically accurate but sufficiently stylised to be recognisable as his own work. DAN GREEN is probably his best inker. BOB LAYTON on IRON MAN covered ROMITA in such a way as to make the art more LAYTON's than ROMITA's, much in the same way that DANNY BULANADI (pardon me while I retch) tends to ignore the artist &ggo his own way (though at least LAYTON's results were good - BULANADI's work is appalling). I don't know if ROMITA's the right artist for the X-MEN, but he doesn't really deserve the tongue-lashing he got in ≠ 19.

I think the major problem is approach. When BYRNE & AUSTIN left the X-MEN, COCKRUM emerged on the other extreme. BYRNE & AUSTIN art was clean, hard-edged & 'cartoony' whereas COCKRUM's art was too soft & sketchy. SIENKIEWICZ presented for me the same problem - for some reason the X-MEN don't suit a soft pencilling technique. SMITH, as inked by WIACEK, returned the art to its crispness. It returned the art to its crispness, reducing all the characters to their basic forms, exaggerating peculiarities, taking massive liberties & getting away with it most of the time. He was reaching his peak when he left & all of a sudden, WIACEK's stylised hair shading & face lines seemed out of place - an anachro-nism (the same thing happened to JANSEN without MILLER on DAREDEVIL - suddenly , all the inadequacies were exposed). WIACEK & SMITH I love. WIACEK & ROMITA I hate. But DON GREEN, although being his best inker, softens the art. All of a sudden everyone is in 3-D again & it doesn't look right.

I would love to see P. CRAIG RUSSELL do an issue. Only one. Something special, y'know. But being realistic, who would be a good choice ?? LEIALOHA would be nice, but only if he could ink himself. This is patently unlikely - look what happened to the scheduling of COYOTE & he only drew 2 issues! How about CHARLES VEN ?? Can you imagine it ?? If nothing else, at least NIGHTCRAWLER would feel at home.



Personally, despite personal misgivi--ngs, I reckon that HUTCH GUICE is next in line for the job if ROMITA quits (or is given the elbow). All his portfolios & illos always seem to be of the X-MEN & drawing the mini-series must have made him dead keen on the idea of pencilling some more. Frankly, I think he's over--rated, but that's just my opinion (Hey, lets look on the bright side - maybe they'll give in PERLIN inked by MIKE EPOSITO - Oh God, I just know I'm going to give myself nightmares now!).

Concerning BYRNE's present work, the problem I have is deja vu - I have the feeling that I've seen every panel before. Maybe that's why he left the X-MEN - he found himself repeating the same panels again & again. ALPHA FLIGHT suffers from this problem, but strangely enough the FANTASTIC FOUR stands on its own two feet a lot better artwise - maybe he enjoys it more. Who knows ?? As much as I like his art, I have no desire to see him return to the book - witness FF#250, the X-MEN he drew (or should I say SKRULLS) lacked freshness, just the same tired old poses & faces. BYRNE ought to experiment more, try & expand, grow, extend his own limits, not just sit back & churn it out like a hack.

ROGER GIBSON'84

X-FAN # 554 Thanks a lot for # 19. I must admit I was pretty astounded by what you produce for the subscription money (& after showing it around, I think you may be getting letters from a few people in my area!). It was a great read in all. The articles & features being well-written & amusing (what a relief!).

There seems to be, depending on your point of view that is, some very unhealthy attitudes towards MS. PRYDE, especially from DAVE PRICE. I can't see what the fuss is over, myself (mind you, my favourite female in comics at the moment is VALARIA from WARP, so that explains a lot of things!).

Just to let you know where I stand over ALPHA FLIGHT, JOHN BYRNE is THE writer & artist in comics. I think if he hadn't worked on the X-MEN, I don't think we would be reading CEREBRO today, since COCKRUM wouldn't have generated the fan interest required. BYRNE produces comics that, for me, are of the type that drew me into reading them a long time ago (LEE & KIRBY don't mean anything to some people nowadays!). ALPHA FLIGHT is great & is (gasp!) no way just to pass a Sunday afternoon. After all, Sundays are for abasing oneself at the foot of images of JOHN BYRNE (aren't they ??).

NEAL BURTON'84

X-FAN # 552 I'm a new member, so this is my first letter. Now a few points I think & hope could be helpful. First, I had never heard of CEREBRO or seen it until by a pure fluke, I looked at a revolving rack in NOSTALGIA & COMICS in BIRMINGHAM. Why don't you send a poster with the next issues you send to the shop, asking the manager to put it on show somewhere.

TRIED IT, BUT A LOT OF THE COMICS SHOPS SEEM RESTRICTED IN SPACE. I DO KNOW THAT PHIL CLARK AT 'NOSTALGIA' HAS IT ON HIS MAIN COUNTER FOR ABOUT A WEEK WHEN IT FIRST COMES IN THOUGH. SHOPS LIKE 'BOOKS, BITS & BOBS' DO AN ENORMOUS SPREAD TOO, JUDGING BY THE NUMBER OF BACK ISSUES OF CEREBRO THEY ORDER. IF THERE'S A COMIC SHOP NEAR YOU WHO YOU THINK SHOULD BE STOCKING CEREBRO, GIVE ME THE NAME & PHONE NUMBER OF WHO I HAVE TO CONTACT & WE'LL SEE IF WE CAN WIDEN OUR OUTLETS. Second, when I decided I wanted to join the fan club, I found there is no membership form in CEREBRO. Would it be possible to include one in future issues. **MAYBE NOT TO THE MEMBERSHIP COPIES, BUT I'LL TRY SOMETHING WITH THE SHOP COPIES.** Third & last, is the X-INDEX available as a one-off & if not could you consider doing so. **BEEN CONSI--DERING FOR SOMETIME, BUT IT WOULD HAVE TO BE A REVISED EDITION & THAT WILL BE A LOT OF WORK. HOW MANY OF YOU MEMBERS WANT THIS DONE BY THE WAY BECAUSE IT WOULD HAVE TO COVER ITS OWN COSTS.**

In MARVEL AGE, there was mention of both NIGHTCRAWLER & MAGNETO MINI-SERIES. Any news or dates when these are due. In MARVEL AGE # 15, they tell you ALPHA FLIGHT # 14 features SASQUATCH & AURORA. Why, if they are trying to make # 12 a big 'who will die' mystery, do they tell you this when # 15 came out roughly the same time as AF # 10 or # 11. This isn't the only example of this happening, so have MARVEL got crossed wires somewhere ? As these 'mistakes' are taking some of the suspence out of the stories. I mean, if at the end of an issue, a hero is about to die (or looks like it) then you read MARVEL AGE that a future issue features him, the plot is spoilt. I hope that makes sense.

WHAT IT BOILS DOWN TO IS YOU SHOULDN'T BUY MARVEL AGE IF YOU WANT TO KEEP WHAT IS GOING TO HABBEN AS A SURPRISE. I GATHER THEY ARE GOING TO CUT BACK HOW FAR IN ADVANCED THEY HAVE GOT WITH ADVANCED ISSUE NEWS, MORE FROM THE SCHEDULING PROBLEMS THAN THE SURPRISE ASPECT. MAYBE THEY'LL CUT DOWN ON THE ACTUALLY EVENTS THAT WILL BE TAKING PLACE THOUGH. WHERE I'VE DISCOVERED SUCH INFORMATION, I TRY NOT TO GIVE IT AWAY COS PART OF THE ATTRACTION OF THE X-MEN IS THE 'WHAT HAPPENS NEXT' SUSPENSE. Now, some questions. When WOLVERINE uses his claws, why don't his hands bleed as its stated, skin grows over the openings when the claws are retracked. Also, why is WOLVERINE classed as a second-generation mutant ??

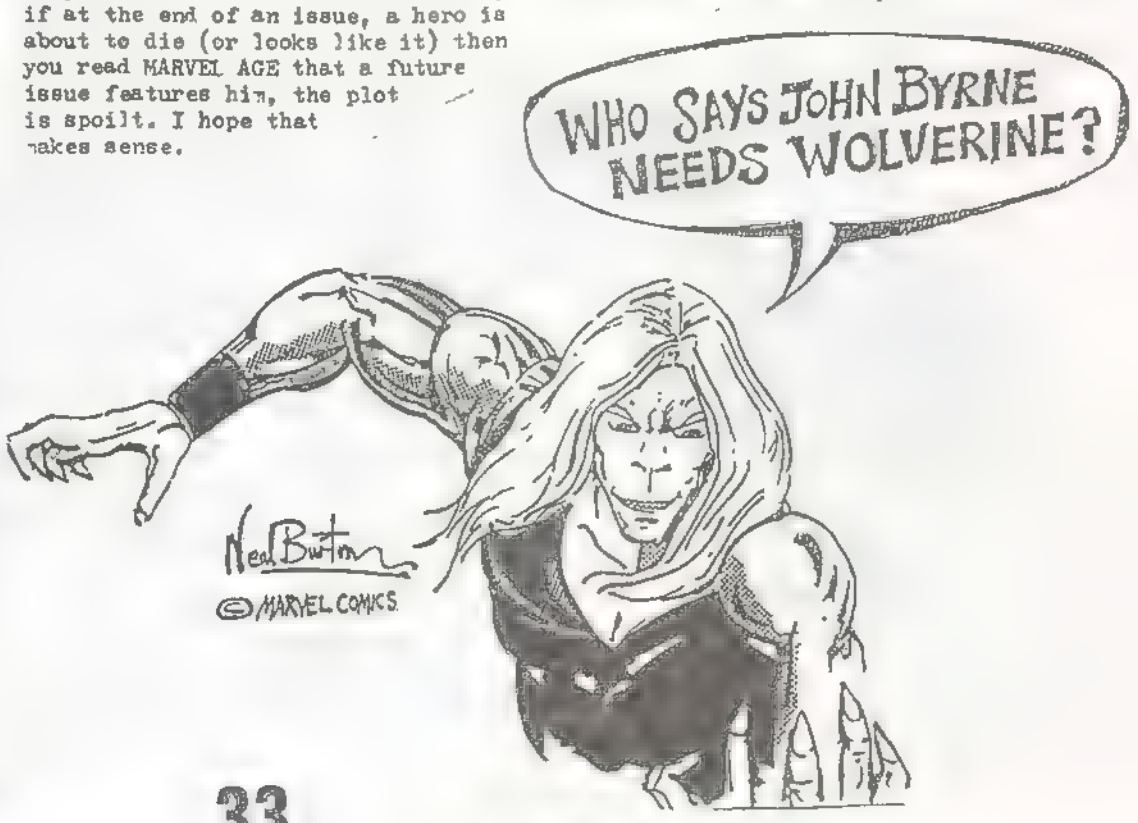
PHIL HUNT'84

FULL DETAILS CAN BE GOT FROM CEREBROS # 7 & 8, HOWEVER, WOLVERINE HEALS REAL FAST & WHEN HIS CLAWS RETRACT THEY OPEN THE SKIN AGAIN, SO IT REGENERATES TOTALLY. WOLVERINE'S ABILITIES ARE INHERITED FROM HIS FATHER - WHO IS A MUTANT, THEREFORE HE IS A SECOND GENERATION NEW SPECIES.

X-FAN # 525 # 19. Great cover artwork & lots of great illos inside. I particularly liked YOSEMITE SAM on page 31. I still enjoy the X-MEN (although blasphemous as it might sound, I'm now beginning to look forward more eagerly to seeing the NEW MUTANTS latest issue!! SHOCK! GASP!) but I've rather given up on ALPHA FLIGHT. I thought the early issues were mediocre at best & had made up my mind that if # 5 wasn't a lot better, I would stop buying it. Then I got # 5 & guess what ?? I thought it was great! A PUCK solo adventure of speed, humour & action. This is more like it though. Next month I rushed out & bought # 6 & guess what ? I thought it the absolute pits. A dreadful waste of time. I really love words & books, but in a comic I expect artwork as well. # 6 had 5½ pages totally without artwork & speech bubbles in each panel. Total laziness on JOHN BYRNE's part causing a waste of money on mine. I was furious! What is more snow & blizzards just aren't blank like that. Snow has different level shadows & colours, & I don't just mean when someone takes a wee in it. I have got # 7, but only because I bought it off a second-hand stall for 10p. It was, admit--tedly, an improvement on # 6, but it still didn't grab me particularly.

PHILIP COLLINS'84

IT COULD HAVE BEEN DRAWN IN MILK & THEN YOU WOULD HAVE TO HOLD THE PAGES OVER A CANDEE TO BRING THE PICTURE UP I 'POSE.



X-FAN # 407 WIDEAWAKE interesting & very useful to someone like me who can't be bothered to research facts like those. MAGIK was magic, loved the KITTY devel--opment, likewise DARKFORCE SHADOW. The art with it went really well. DANNY's NIGHTCRAWLER - what can I say ??

Coverwise, # 19 was fine - artwise at least. I had my doubts about the BREAKDOWN from the word go, I'm afraid. I thought that MARVEL UNIVERSE was a mistake & hence BREAKDOWN even more of a mess. To RAI DAVIES: I'm in favour of leaving the choice of cover logo to the artist involved. By all means have a standard should anyone not want to incorporate the logo into their cover; but the artist to be free to do what they want.

On the subject of BYRNE's art, I thought years ago that most of the X-MEN's art was only good because of the efforts of TERRY AUSTIN. Look at the X-MEN in the FF recently. Then look at AUSTIN's work with SMITH in MARVEL FANFARE. Plus the fact that BYRNE's art looks rushed now. This is probably because it is. Look at the number of projects he's working on at the moment. As to ALPHA FLIGHT - I like it in general & wouldn't put it pass BYRNE to kill off all of them & start again with BETA FLIGHT. Proverb for the day: Inks maketh art.

As to the changing face of ROGUE. I reckon CLAREMONT is just putting her somewhere so he can keep creative control over her; to avoid the headaches he had before with the likes of MS. MARVEL & SPIDER-WOMAN. JIM SHOOTER is blowing wind from his south end when it comes to WOLVERINE killing people. He's killed lots of people & so what, it was his job for years; so what do you expect ? The fact that he is slightly less liable to do so today is just good character development, NOT an indication that he has never killed.

Why organise the ART SWOP ? Its a good idea, but I thought a lot of people were doing it already. I think it would be a good idea to give people's names at the beginning of letters with the X-FAN number, so that people know each other can identify each other quicker. **YOU MEAN NOT EVERYONE HAS A PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY WITH MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS ?? HEH HEH HEH.**

Though with articles, I would keep the name at the end because an article is independent & so, who wrote it is of little importance, so long as the article is read. Letters are communications between fans & so the author is important. Also, fans that know each other can read things into each others work, while it is possible to miss something or to take it the wrong way if you don't agree with the author. Do people agree ?? With regard to people's attitude to comic fans, I agree with GEOFF. Come out of the cupboard, SEAN ROBERTS.
AS I SEE IT, YOU JUST WANT TO BE LAZY & READ CERTAIN LETTERS THROUGHONCE ONLY.

Onto the MORLOCKS. I'm afraid I find the whole idea of umpteen thousand mutants running around in the storm drain system to be a total cop-out. The 'cast of millions' idea just to supply new & different foes in the future stinks. How have they remained unknown until now ?? Their existance, let alone their numbers, just cannot be reason--ably explained (you may have noticed that I'm not too keen on the MORLOCKS).
COULD BE THAT CLAREMONT IS GONNA USE A LOT OF THEM FOR CANNON FODDER AGAINST THE SENTINELS & WIDEAWAKE.

I think its a very brave experiment on behalf of CLAREMONT to remove CYCLOPS for the present. I am of the opinion that he is MR. X-MAN, but I also feel that as a team-book, the X-MEN should stand as a team & since the other characters are strong in their own right, the book may benefit from CYKE's absence.

I've always thought XAVIER to be the worst member of the group. He's so condescending & on top of that, he's a boring old fart who seems to get younger with each issue. At least, when he was in the wheel--chair he could be pushed out of the way. But now, we face the possibility of him actually going on missions with the team. This I am sure will cause more problems than it will solve, especially with WOLVERINE & the new STORM because he's such a sanctimonious bar steward. He may even want to lead the group. There's only one answer to that: SNIKT!

WHO CARES, SIMON JOWETT. I care & I agree that more than comics should be discussed in fanzines & it is probably a good forum to discuss a mutual hobby together with possible thought--provoking comment. Hence the nature of my own writing. People should always stand ready to question their own beliefs, moreso than they question others - that is how faith in an idea is strengthened.

MARTIN FISHER'84

X-FAN # 355 Let me introduce myself. My name is MIKE HOLDBROOK. I was rather humilated & somewhat myst--ified after reading X-PLETIVES in # 19. Here are the reasons: -

1) I created SCHMOOVERINE, NOT SHOOVERINE, Mr. COWIN &
2) I was at last year's OUTING. Mr. TEAGUE - your letter hurt me. Especially as I enjoyed that day out in GREENWICH & LONDON & 'having successfully passed an interview the previous day'. I must personally thank GEOFF when I see him next for backing me up.

BETTER TAKE A RAINCHECK ON THAT, JUST IN CASE IT WAS A TYPING ERROR WITH SCHMOOVERINE.

For those of you X-FANS still in doubt, look at the photos of the OUTING. In the middle, left picture that's me in front of GEOFF (who's looking at the BATF! doll). I've got my hand placed on the SPHINX' left paw, smiling profusely. I'm the bloke with the central parting. You see me ?? AT LAST, I'M FAMOUS!

Its just occured to me. Where's TEAGUE ? Answer: The idiot holding up his hand, I know. Hands up all those X-FANS who think MIKE TEAGUE looks like film director JOHN - WARGAMES, BLUE THUNDER - BADHAM. You mean to say you don't know what J.B. looks like ??

Back to business. # 19 was brilliant. Late, but brilliant.

The second part of the LOUISE JONES INTERVIEW was interesting if a bit dated. XAVIER can already walk & after reading X-MEN # 181, I presume some-thing has happened to COLOSSUS. It was nice to see SUNFIRE make an appe-arance. Speaking of appearances, why didn't the X-MEN reappear in CENTRAL PARK ?? I think everybody who's read FANTASTIC FOUR # 265 deserves a no-prize. Surely you've seen BYRNE's slip when he said, or rather SUSAN RICHARDS' state that the X-MEN also reappeared in CENTRAL PARK. I hope there will be a revised edition of the MARVEL UNIVERSE stating all the changes that have taken place in the SECRET WARS MINI-SERIES. The sooner the better.

When I first found out about the MARVEL UNIVERSE PERIODICAL/ ENCYCLOPEDIA, I thought after a couple of months it would go out of date. It is already badly out of date. Even now I hear DC are bringing out a DC UNIVERSE HANDBOOK. Copy-cats. **WHAT I FOUND RATHER AMUSING WAS THAT THEIR HANDBOOK WOULD CONCENTRATE MORE ON PICTURES THAN DATA ? I WONDER IF THIS IS AN INDICATION OF THE TYPE OF AUDIANCE THEY CATER FOR ??**

The MARVEL UNIVERSE BREAKDOWN was interesting but I feel unnecessary. Also, there will always be mistakes in something as big as the MARVEL UNIVERSE. Take the X-MEN G&T INDEX for an example. In the entry for # 141, they say that the apprehended/ slain poster on the cover had the HUMAN TORCH's face being one of the obscured faces. The HUMAN TORCH isn't even a mutant as such, the actual face being obscured is MADROX THE MULTIPLE MAN.

So, GUARDIAN dies. This took me completely by surprise. I didn't expect, of all people, the leader to die. BYRNE must be bonkers! I can't wait to read everybody's reaction to his death, both in CEREBRO & ALPHA

(c)MARVEL
Danny Reddy '83.

FLIGHT's letter column. Speaking of reactions: His death didn't affect me at first. I was just glad AURORA didn't die because she does for me what BO DEREK did for TARZAN (??).

Then, it hit me. BYRNE's just thrown an excellent plot-line out the window. JAMES HUDSON had just moved into the same apartment block as STEVE ROGERS. I'm sure a lot of people were hoping for a team-up between GUARDIAN, the symbol of CANADA, & CAPTAIN AMERICA, the symbol of AMERICA. Which brings me to my next point. Was this cameo appear--ance of STEVE/CP, BYRNE's way of putting us off-balance & making us think that a great team-up was in the pipeline ?? I wouldn't be surprised if this story is covered in a future issue of WHAT IF...). **IT STILL COULD HAVE HAPPENED IN MARVEL REALITY, THE STORY OF WHICH NOT BEING RECOUNTED YET. THERE'S SUPPOSED TO BE A PUCK STORY GOING TO BE RELEASED IN A SIMILAR MANNER. CONCEIVABLY, BYRNE MAY BE HOLDING THIS BACK TO PLEASE 'GUARDIAN-LOVERS' LATER.**

As to the future of ALPHA FLIGHT, I hope we don't get too many plots involving HEATHER having nightmares & solo adventures. For Christ's sake, ALPHA FLIGHT are a team. A team that needs a leader. Its got to be SHAMAN. No contest! SHAMAN & PUCK come across to be the only two sane members of the group (for obvious reasons, PUCK can no-way be leader), Everybody else seem to have what I call a chronic-ego-complex. In other words, they have split-personalities &/or quick tempers. Something a leader shouldn't have.

Just one more word on ALPHA FLIGHT: OMEGA FLIGHT. A BUNCH OF REJECT 'NEW BROTHERHOOD OF EVIL MUTANTS'! I mean, can you believe BOX ?? WILD CHILD: Yet another WOLVERINE-come-SABRE TOOTH. FLASH--BACK - another MADROX THE MULTIPLE MAN or the COLLECTIVE MAN. SMART ALEC: What exactly does he do ?? Sit around & watch people with his 'new ecephalo-helmet augmenting his IQ, plus the audio-visual scanners that let him hear on every frequency & see on every wavelength, etc etc ?? DIAMOND LIL- self explanatory. She gets a hard-on every time someone comes near her. Other than this, I quite like them. I can see ALPHA FLIGHT going places, picking up truckfulls of EAGLE AWARDS & the like. But I still think ALPHA FLIGHT # 12 should have had the same story format of X-MEN # 137. MIKE HOLDBROOKE'84

AS IN HAVING THE ENDING RE-WRITTEN ??

X-FAN # 280

CEREBRO had some very good features in it this issue. What I found most interesting was the interview with the parapsychologist. It was fascinating to find out what is really known & not known about ESP. I was surprised that no mention was made of spontaneous combustion because it has been related to the fact about tele--kinesis - you know the old bit about the human mind not having a power source to fuel the energy for telekinesis. It is believed by some that this spontaneous - in some cases, human - combustion is a clear sign that there is a power source available to the human mind. Neither was there any mention of the ability to see the past through touching an object like someone's gloves they wore the day before to find out what they did (I think its called something like parakinesis).**PSYCHOMETRY ACTUALLY - THE POWER OF DIVINING PROPERTIES OF THINGS BY MERE CONTACT.** An important thing that did not come out of the interview was that ESP is believed to be more widespread & more a part of humanity than was previously thought which makes me wonder if ESPers can be truly catagorised as mutants. I suppose one may say yes, there are telepaths & telekinetics amongst Homo sapiens, but ESPers like CHARLES XAVIER & JEAN GREY represent a step further forward for ESPers, having great more controllable powers. This might change the whole concept of mutants being a bran--ching away from the race of Homo sapien as

they present an enhancement of abilities that man possesses already. This could equally be the case for WOLVERINE, who seems to have enhanced human abilities & senses. But it does all rather tend to cause a confusing arguement with little real evidence to back it up. A question I've been meaning to ask you: Do you think if HAVOK & POLARIS have a baby would it have considerable powers because both its parents are high-powered mutants, no powers at all or low-level powers like WOLVERINE ?? **THERE ARE A LOT OF VARIABLES TO CONSIDER TO GIVE TOO CLEAR A PICTURE OF THE ABILITIES THE BABY WOULD RECEIVE. IF HAVOK BRED WITH A NORMAL HUMAN THERE WOULD BE A TENDENCY TO BELIEVE HE WOULD BREED TRUE IE THE BABY WOULD DEVELOP SIMILAR ABILITIES SIMPLY BECAUSE HAVOK & CYCLOPS HAVE SIMILAR ABILITIES. HOWEVER, HAVOK MATING WITH ANOTHER MUTANT IS LIKELY TO PUT A GREMLIN IN THE WORKS & UNLESS THERE WAS A GENETIC DOMINANT CHARACTERISTIC SO THAT ONE ABILITY WOULD APPEAR IT COULD EQUALLY HAVE NON-IDENTICAL ABILITIES, NOT AT ALL OR, UNFORTUNATELY, BE STILLBORN.** Another question I want to ask you: Increasingly, there is a trend towards two types of mutants - the'pose & blast' PHOENIX, POLARIS, HAVOK, CYCLOPS, etc & those who have enhanced abilities ie super-strength, speed, senses. Do you think there is an essential genetic difference between the two groups or do you think any distinction is arbitrary & are not cut & dry. **A MUTANT IS STILL A MUTANT, WHATEVER FORM THE ABILITY COMES IN. HOWEVER, IF WE EXAMINE IT FROM THE POINT OF VIEW THAT THE HUMAN SPECIES IS PRODUCING MUTANTS IN THE ATTEMPT TO BREED TRUE & FILL NICHES IN MAN'S ENVIRONMENT EG AQUATIC & AVIAN TYPE HUMANS, & GENERALLY TO IMPROVE MAN'S GENERAL SURVIVAL, THEN ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN. MUTATION WILL BE PRETTY RANDOM UNTIL SOME DOMINATE ABILITY WHICH IS PRODUCTIVE TO MAN'S WELFARE ENTERS THE COMMON GENETIC POOL. THIS IS BASIC 'NATURAL SELECTION' BUT WHAT ABILITY DEPENDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS. LOOKING AT THE MARVEL EARTH, I WOULD FAVOUR ABILITIES THAT ARE INNATE & HAVE FEW PHYSICAL CHARACTERISATIONS.**

I would like to agree with the general concensus of opinion that says JOHN BYRNE's artwork & story-lines are poor. He's got an obsession with the ARCTIC CIRCLE. The plot for AF ≠ 3 & 4 was what seemed to be a dread crib from JOHN CARPENTER's THE THING, especially MARRINA's powers that she adapted to human form on contact with the first human that touched her.

Also, I find PUCK difficult to accept as a hero. He has no powers that I have seen as yet & as a dwarf, one must realize without being cruel to such people, will be subject to many diseases due to this disability, most notably respiratory diseases due to having an under-developed lung capacity. I'm not sure, but I believe it was because of diseases related to this that led to the death of the dwarf actor who acted in E.T.. Perhaps I'm taking this wrong & should see PUCK as a positive attempt by BYRNE to make disabled (that seems a harsh word) as represented in the MARVEL WORLD (doesn't the HUMAN FLY have some disability ?). I know DAREDEVIL is blind, but his abilities compensate for his blindness. Mainly, I think PUCK is weak because he looks like a poor imitation of WOLVERINE, if in a slightly different vein.

IAIN MALLETT'84

THE ONLY DISABILITY BEING SHORT IS THE DIFFICULTY AT REACHING THE LIGHT SWITCH AS OUR WORLD IS BASED OFF A TALLER AVERAGE HEIGHT. DWARVES HAVE AS GREAT A LIFE EXPECTANCY AS ANYBODY, ANYTHING ELSE IS ONLY LIKELY TO HAPPEN IF THEY'RE NOT IN GOOD HEALTH. THE PROBLEM OF ACCEPTING PUCK IN THE HERO MODE IS THAT HE DOES NOT REPRESENT THE SUPER-HERO STEREOTYPE OF BEING TALL & MUSCULAR. MARVEL HAVE ALWAYS SPECIALIZED IN HEROES WHO OVERCOME THEIR OWN PERSONAL HANDICAPS (DD, STARK, ET AL) SO I THINK ONE SHOULD MEASURE THEIR COURAGE AGAINST THE ODDS THAN THE APPEARANCE.

X-FAN ≠ 377 ≠ 19 was the best one I've received yet. The LOUISE JONES INTERVIEW was very good & it seemed to bring out the personality of LOUISE. All in all, ADRIAN did a very godd job.

The interview with MR. NISBET was interesting to say the least. But come on, they have only scratched the top of ESP phenomena & admits he does not understand as much as he would like to. But at least MR. NISBET understands & has gone to some trouble to find out more.

PETER J. ALTOFT'84

X-FAN ≠ 146 Thanks to GEOFF for sending my CEREBRO when I needed it. On flicking through it on the way to the LONDON MART (a tedious 3 hour journey), I noticed the stylish logo over PETE MARTIN's nice cover. Next, I noticed the high quality of art in this ish.

Sorry about DAVE PRICE's letter, folks. Its my fault he got out of his cell. You really should have lost his letter again, GEOFF. DAVE & I have been discussing opening a comic/bookshop. After looking at various calculated costs, it makes me wonder how the various shops outside of LONDON manage to make a profit.

In response to 'NOSE' ROAHH,I do not read CHITA or 1984! (I just look at the pictures...).At least, I don't have a silly nickname! Them's fighting words, pardner! The article on ESP was useful & served to qualify most of my theories on the subject. I suggest everybody attempts to study parapsychology & the occult. There's a lot more to life than most people realize & if everyone followed a more spiritual path, the world would be a better place (& if you think I'm a nut, you're right!).

ABSOLUTE POWER: Of course it corrupts absolutely. If I had A.P., then my first & only act would be to remove my own power thus I don't harm anyone & don't benefit myself. Of course, who knows how it would affect one's mind ?? Alright, I take back my comments on ROMITA. Still, no artist can make CLAREMONT's dialogue good (OUCH! Don't hit me with that hat, GEOFF!). What with DARK XAVIER in the X-MICRO TEAM-UP, he seems to almost be parodying himself now. I await DARK LAMPREY's comments. Come to think of it, we don't hear much of your views on the current X-MEN, GEOFF. Care to tell us ?? **WHICH ?? MY VIEWS OR WHY I DON'T EXPRESS THEM. HEH HEH HEH**

A few more questions to finish with. Who thinks RICHARD CHAMBERLAIN looks like a JOHN BYRNE drawing ?? And does MYSTIQUE know she was named after a perfume by LENTHERIC ?? Will MARVEL run out of X-MEN MINI-SERIES ?? Can we expect a LOCKHEED MINI-SERIES ?? Do you care ??

SEAN ROBERTS'84

X-FAN ≠ 403 Thanks again for printing my X-INDEX cover. Your gentle cajoling (advice would be a better word) forced me to produce my best work & I'm most grateful. I'd like to assure MARTIN FISHER that IRON MAN wasn't even in my mind when I drew the INDEX, but seeing as this isn't for print, it doesn't matter. I'd just like to say that JOHNNY ROMITA JR is good. Not special. Just GOOD.

DAVE BEZZINA'84

ALTHOUGH IT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO BE, ON THIS RARE OCCASION I DID. HOPE YOU DON'T GO FOR MY JUGULAR TOO MUCH, DAVE, COS I'D LIKE SOME MORE ART OUT OF YOU.

X-FAN ≠ 502 Considering the fact that I have been a member of the Club since ≠ 17 & as yet, failed to enter fully into its true spirit, I thought it about time to break my silence. ≠ 19 is the best issue of the Clubzine that I have encountered to date. Although quality of presentation & content were noticable traits of both ≠ 17 & 18 also. Other than the cover & a few of the interior sketches (NIGHTCRAWLER page 2 & WOLVERINE page 53) two features in particular caught my attention: PAUL HAYWARD's assessment of COLOSSUS & FIONA JEROME's fascinating insight into the origins of the WENDIGO legend. Although my main interest, as regards the X-MEN, will always be focused around the original team members, of the current line-up, my favourite character is COLOSSUS. I find it distressing therefore, that I cannot challenge the remarks made in relation to COLOSSUS by PAUL HAYWARD. For, as this article

clearly defined, there has been little headway made in the develop--ment of PETER RASPUTIN's character since his initial introduction &, in all honesty, whilst CHRIS CLARE--MONT persists in ultilizing the character in such rôles as X-MEN ≠ 177-179 - where he once again hovers on the brink of destruction- the future affords no hope for any forthcoming improvements.
**I DUNNO THOUGH. THE BREAK-UP OF ANY POSSIBLE ROMANTIC INVOLVEMENT BETWEEN COLOSSUS & ARIEL HAS ENDED UP ON A CLOSER FOCUS ON RASPUTIN, WHICH IS A GOOD SIGN THOUGH. THAT SITUATION WAS A NO-GO FROM THE START CONSIDERING THE AGE GAP & MARVEL'S SLOW TIME ENTROPY EFFECT.*

It mystifies me as to the ease with which the BLOB (in ≠ 177) simply cast COLOSSUS aside. I wish MARVEL writers would take heed of respective hero/villain powers & abilities - surely COLOSSUS is by far the more powerful of the two!?!
BY PRESS WEIGHTS, COLOSSUS IS OBVIOUSLY THE STRONGER. HOWEVER, ONCE THE BLOB IS 'ROOTED'TO THE SPOT, HE IS VERY MUUH THE IMMOVABLE OBJECT, & A SWIPE FROM HIM WOULD UNBALANCE THE STRONGEST OF MEN. THIS ANSWER ALSO COVERS THE SAME QUESTION WHICH DANNY NOQUET ASKS.

The WENDIGO has always been a character used far too infrequently. I can only recall an appearance in the late lamented MWOM (taken from HULK ≠ 180-181 - does anyone have these original issues by chance ??), the magnificent X-MEN ≠ 140 & more recently, the HULK ≠ 272 (plus a few cip-cake advertisements). FIONA's article was both informat--ive & interesting in relation to the WENDIGO's place in Indian legend. The inclusion of the statistical breakdown from the MARVEL UNIVERSE series was much appreciated, though I for one found the eventual definitive answers (as the tables must represent) to such questions as differing streng--ths & speeds somewhat unsatisfying. HERCULES stronger than either THOR or the HULK ?? IRON MAN only capable of lifting 11 tons ?? It makes you wonder as to the more realistic outcomes of such confron--tations as: SPIDER-MAN Vs JUGGER--NAUT, IRON MAN vs CONTROLLER or DAREDEVIL vs MR. HYDE.
AND HOPEFULLY THE WRITERS WILL HAVE TO TURN TO MORE THAN SLUGFESTS TO WIN A BATTLE & THAT BRAINS & NOT BRAWN IS THE KEY IN SUCH ENCOUNTERS

A popular topic for discussion, in light of last issue's article, would seem to be ALPHA FLIGHT. In truth, the series to date has left me feeling pretty disheartened. BYRNE's art has steadily degenera--ted since his departure from the X-MEN. His intense concentration to the writing chores (as on the FANTASTIC FOUR) has proven to be detrimental to the care which he once applied to his artistry. Here's hoping he recaptures his immaculate form of the past & quick! Mind you, ALPHA FLIGHT does have a couple of good points, namely SASQUATCH & PUCK.

Continuing on the theme of artwork, I for one would like to commend the efforts of JOHN ROMITA JR, a much under-rated artist who has coped well with the X-art chores.

PHILEP STEELE'84

X-FAN ≠ 444 ≠ 19. Very nice. Loved the cover. Well done to PETE. The

feature on PROJECT: WIDEAWAKE was done well, especially since the MUTANT AFFAIRS ACT had been passed through. I think its doubtful that the new President will be a rabid anti-mutant supporter as it would be too far-fetched. **IT WASN'T THAT LONG AGO THAT HAVING AN EX-ACTOR AS A PRESIDENT WAS CONSIDERED AS BEING A LITTLE FAR-FETCHED TOO.** Thanks for the MARVEL UNIVERSE BREAKDOWNS. They're interesting & useful as I haven't got the set. One thing puzzles me on the PRESS WEIGHT section. WONDER MAN is stronger than THOR. But its been stated that though he once fought THOR almost to a standstill he is not quite as strong as him, eg AVENGERS ≠ 175 - WONDY picks up weights designed for THOR & CAPTAIN AMERICA has to bail him out. **IF YOU LOOK AT THE CHART, WONDER MAN & THOR DO PRESS THE SAME PRESS WEIGHT, HOWEVER SIMON WILLIAMS BEING MUCH LIGHTER THAN THE THUNDER GOD IS THE MORE EFFICIENT PER CUBIC INCH. THIS WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL WHEN TESTING WITH THOR'S WEIGHTS, WHICH WOULD ALLOW FOR A GREATER BODY DENSITY TO TEST THE ASGARDIAN. DON'T FORGET ALSO, STRENGTH ALONE DOES NOT INDICATE COMBAT SKILL NOR COURAGE.**

The WOLVERINE INDEX was very interesting & helpful, but is ADAMANTIUM a real subst--ance or is it only in JIM SHOOTER's brain??

DANNY QUINN'84

NEITHER. ADAMANTIUM IS FICTIONAL. IT FIRST APPEARED IN AVENGERS ≠ 66 AS DEVISED BY ROY THOMAS.

X-FAN ≠ 334 Thanks for putting one of my letters in X-PLETIVES, nice to see my name in print. CEREBRO was impressive throughout (as always). I loved DANNY REDDEN's X-INDEX cover of WOLVERINE - excellent. WOLVERINE is one character that I find nearly imposs--ible to draw, especially his mask. If its drawn even slightly off it makes the face look completely flat. My favourite artist for WOLVERINE is either FRANK MILLER or JOHN BYRNE. DAVE COCKRUM draws him OK but PAUL SMITH always got his nose wrong. I hate ROMITA JR's rendition of him.

The MARVEL UNIVERSE BREAKDOWNS were particularly interesting; the mistake with CYCLOPS being very obvious. I can't understand how anyone could have defined CYCLOPS' powers in the way it was done. CHRIS CLAREMONT must have been out of town when it was written. Its obvious that whoever wrote it knew absolutely nothing about the character. Another mistake which comes to mind which you didn't mention was the nationality of PYRO. In X-MEN # 141, BLOB says to PYRO, 'I've taken all the lip from you I'm gonna, ENGLISHMAN!' Yet, in MARVEL UNIVERSE it clearly states that he was born in SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA & makes no mention of BRITAIN or any BRITISH connection. **THE BLOB ISN'T PARTICULARLY KNOWN FOR HIS I.Q. & TO MANY AMERICANS AUSTRALIAN IS STILL PART OF THE COMMONWEALTH IE ANY ENGLISH SPEAKING FOREIGNER BECOMES A BRIT.** Something else which caught my eye in the WEIGHT PRESS SECTION was HERCULES being in 2nd place & able to press 100 tons. No way! THOR in comparison is far more powerful than him. Hulk at # 10 ??? I can't agree with that. He should have been # 2 at least. And how was JUGGERNAUT at # 9, when his press weight wasn't given. **IT STATES THAT HE HAS HULK-LEVEL STRENGTH, SO WE TOOK THAT PRESS WEIGHT & DIVIDED THAT BY HIS WEIGHT & FOUND HE WAS A LITTLE MORE EFFICIENT PER CUBIC INCH THAN THE HULK.**

To the X-MEN: # 180 - the story was OK & the art not bad but for a few exceptions, namely the fight scene between STORM & the muggers when she says, 'Against such foes as these, bare hands should suffice. More fun, too!' Now I know that STORM has had a change in character, but this is ridiculous. Thinking back to the BROOD stories, STORM at one point was reluctant to use her powers just incase she harmed one of the BROOD SHIPS. When the new STORM was first introduced in # 173 with the dynamic PAUL SMITH art, I thought great! No more soppy boring 'cares for all life' STORM, but a new savage more powerful STORM. But as time goes on, I now feel that this new STORM is very empty as a character. The old STORM was unique in the way she treasured human life, her band with nature & her beauty & 'more than a woman' image. There are plenty of characters like the new STORM who enjoy a fight. I believe she has lost her interesting appeal to her. I can't understand why her personality change has affected her powers. In # 127, CYCLOPS is amazed that PHOENIX is able to levitate 5 people without a hint of strain, yet in # 181, STORM does exactly the same with 4 people. **IN # 142, STORM LIFTS 9 PEOPLE, TOO. BUT ITS BY PRACTICALLY RAISING A SMALL HURRICANE TO DO SO. WHAT AMAZED CYCLOPS ABOUT PHOENIX WAS THE FACT AT ONE POINT IN HER LIFE, SHE COULD BARELY RAISE HER OWN WEIGHT COMFORTABLY.**

Another question I have is when SPIDER-MAN returned from the SECRET WARS he had stubble on his chin, so how come STORM hasn't the same stubble on her head (unless of course, she took along a bic razor). **WHAT WOULD SHE BE DOING WITH SPIDER-MAN'S STUBBLE ON HER HEAD ANYWAY ??** Going back to the BROOD issues again, I think the morality issue was being carried too far, especially when KITTY was in the airlock in # 163 debating whether she should open the airlock so killing the SLEAZOID or not. To most people, there would be no decision about it - just bye bye SLEAZOID. I see from the front cover of # 181 that 4 X-MEN have new costumes. The only one I like is COLOSSUS' costume. I never liked the old one & this red & black one is a slight improvement. I much prefered ROGUE's old green costume than this new orange & green one. Its terrible. KITTY's, if

that is KITTY on the front cover, costume is terrible. I can't understand why she didn't stick with the green & yellow costume - that was great! The worst costume of the lot was PROFESSOR XAVIER's. Here is a man who has been crippled for the last 20 odd years & now as soon as he has the use of his legs again, he has the body of an olympic athlete. And the colours: Yellow & light blue! Its enough to make you sick. The man must be at least 60, a school teacher, a distinguished professor of genetics, world-renowned, etc etc.. that would a man like that be wearing a costume like that for ? I think it is a big mistake on CLAREMONT's part to give XAVIER an active place in the X-MEN. What will happen to the NEW MUTANTS ?? What pupils would take a teacher seriously if he came in a yellow skintight costume ?? If PROFESSOR X must be in the X-MEN, he should wear a suit, a 1920s gangster's hat & a small mask like GREEN LANTERN or ROBIN's. He must look distinguished if anything.

DAMIAN WHITE '84

BUT THIS ISN'T THE OLD XAVIER BODY. ITS A CLONE BODY TO SUPPORT HIS PERSONNA - SEE X-MEN # 167 - GROWN TO FULL HEALTH. THE ONLY REASON IT COULD NOT WALK RIGHT AWAY WAS BECAUSE THE MIND CONTROLLING IT WAS USED TO A CRIPPLED BODY. AS TO THE COSTUME, I THINK XAVIER'S BEEN READING THE PAPERBACK VERSION OF HENRY KUTTNER'S NOVEL 'MUTANT' WHICH HAS A SIMILARLY GARBED PERSON ON ITS COVER.

X-FAN # 76 / 19 has kept up the usual high standards established some 10 or so issues ago. On the artside there was some nice stuff from STEVE WHITAKER, RAY WILLIAMSON (loved the PUCK drawing in particular), DAVE ROACH, DANNY REDDEN & KEN SIMPSON. I noticed large numbers of your OWN work have appeared this ish, GEOFF, does this mean you're short on artwork generally ?? **ON SPECIFIC CHARACTERS, YES. EVERYONE SEEMS TO CONCENTRATE ON THE BASIC MAIN X-MEN & FORGET THE NEW MUTANTS, ALPHA FLIGHT, THE VILLAINS & ALL THE SUPPORTING CAST (INCLUDING THE STARJAMMERS & THE IMPERIAL GUARD). ITS NOT AS THOUGH THERE IS A LIMITED CHOICE. THOSE OF THE ARTIST POOL WHO ARE SHOWING A KNACK FOR COMPOSITION AT PRESENT ARE FINDING THEMSELVES ASSIGNED TO DO ILLUSTRATIONS SPECIFICALLY FOR THE ARTICLES RATHER THAN A SELECTION FROM THE FILES.

AS TO MY ART COMPOSITION LAST TIME: OF THE 5, 2 I DID THE PENCILS ONLY, 2 I INKED THE PENCILS OF OTHERS,

"SO - CALL YOURSELF AN 'ELF', EH?"

& I THAT WAS WHOLLY MY OWN WORK. THE RESULT OF WHICH I'VE ENDED UP COLLABORATING WITH A LOT MORE MEMBERS THIS TIME, IN & OUT OFTHE PENCIL & INK SWOP, BUT THEY ALL GET PUT IN THE PILE TO BE SELECTED FROM, I DON'T DISCR--IMINATELY FAVOUR THEM (HELL, IF ANYTHING I TEND TO DO THE REVERSE). BY THE BY, THE ONE ABOVE IS A'SIGHT GAG' REACTION OF WOLVERINE FINDING OUT HE IS NOW AN ARTICULATED MODEL.**

The LOUISE JONES INTERVIEW raised some interesting points again. I was particularly interested in the news that the X-MEN is selling more than when BYRNE was on it. No wonder MARVEL keeps releasing mini-series & spin-offs on them!! (On the whole, the mini-series have been something of non-events. I wish MARVEL would either improve them or forget them & concentrate on lifting the X-MEN to their former glory). ADRIAN's done a good job. Whilst I'm on the subject of the interview, I might as well mention PAUL HAYWARD's comments (in his letter) about LOUISE. I think he's being a bit unfair on WEEZIE when he says she comes across as a bit smug. I understand from other interviews I've read that her fellow professionals are rather fond of her (in a similar way to MARIE SEVERIN).

I spent ages going over your MARVEL UNIV--ERSE article. A fascinating piece of work... But 7 pages devoted to something you reckon might not be of interest to some people ?? Still, it is very handy. Just don't get TOO trivial. I think MARVEL's GRAVITONS theory is a bunch of cobblers myself. An unnecessary complication on something that can be simply explained in other terms. A particularly aggravating aspect is that it doesn't adequate (any?) explaination for forward motion. How does NORTHSTAR reach 7700 mph ?? Fart power?? **MOTION IS RELATIVE TO THE EARTH & HOW FAR IT GETS NEGATED. YOU THEN APPLY NEWTON'S LAWS AS IF YOU'RE IN FREE-FALL OR VACCUM: A LITTLE PUSH WILL TAKE YOU A LONG WAY.** My own pet theory (which explains flight without so many problems) is that super-beings use the same 'thing' which allows telekinesis in our own world (...or do we have to extend GRAVITONS to telekinesis as well ??). For some reason those with flight don't NECESSARILY have telekinesis amongst their powers but does this REALLY matter (maybe they haven't learnt it yet or there might be purely natural reasons). Forward motion is handled by telekinesis.

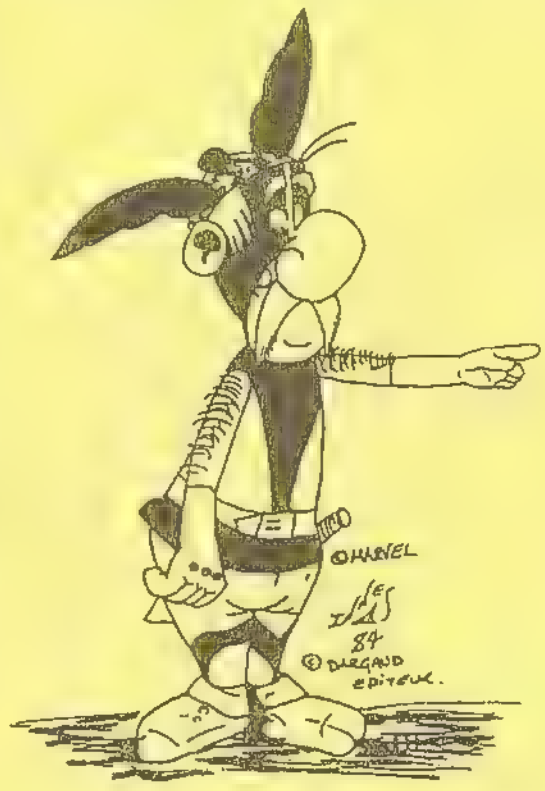
As to super-strength, perhaps this might also be due to telekinesis. This could explain the apparent cock-ups with people lifting girders & things from awkward angles - its certainly no stranger than using 'graviton fields'. Besides, its been used to explain most of GLADIATOR's strength by BYRNE (FF # 250). **THIS 'THING' WHICH ALLOWS TELEKINESIS TO WORK COULD BE 'GRAVIT--ONS' - AS BOTH REQUIRE PSIONIC CONTROL AS I EXPLAINED IN MY ARTICLE. TO WORK, THE MIND HAS TO MANIPULATE SOMETHING. INCIDENTALLY, I CAME ACROSS A REFERENCE TO A 'THEORETICAL GRAVI--TON' PARTICLE IN A SCIENCE DICTIONARY RECENTLY FOR OUR OWN LITTLE REALITY.**

ROSS COWIN's comm--ents on my ALPHA FLIGHT article warrant some sort of reply. He said my reasons for certain members not being killed off were 'bunkem'. Well, as regards the reasons I put in the article, you're right to some extent. BUT, I deliberately left out MOST of my reasons (& included some deliberately provo--cative ones) in an attempt to get people thinking for themselves - & it seems to have worked (quite well in your case, ROSS).

Yes, I thought the EAGLE AWARDS were a bit peculiar too, GEOFF. But then it was a bit funny orig--inally. Why do we have to have nominations anyway ?? Surely with the present system (in whatever form) people are being forced to make a FINAL choice from nomina--tions they may not like. Is this fair ?? (PASSing is a pretty poor alternative if you DON't like the nominations). **WHAT'S WRONG IS THAT ALTHOUGH YOU CAN ALSO PUT IN YOUR OWN PREFERENCE THEY SHOULD BE SHOWN IF THEY GET A HIGHER VOTE THAN ANY OF THE 'NOMINATIONS'. THE REASON THERE ARE 'NOMINATIONS' IS TO CURB CHOICE ON SUBJECTS SUCH AS 'FAVOURITE COMIC BOOK COVER' OR STORY. IN THEORY THIS MAKES SENSE, THE WAY THE NOMINA--TIONS ARE CHOSEN (& THE PANEL FOR THAT MATTER) IS NOT.** Favourite comic cover, though interesting, is a pretty pointless category in the end, so I agree it should be scrapped. However, I definately don't want to see writer/artist combined. This could lead to all kinds of weird results. No matter what you say, GEOFF, the artist is still responsible for the visual impact & the writer for the words which explains both the pictures & characters. **BUT ONE OR THE OTHER CAN BREAK THE OTHER. WHY NOT HAVE IT AS AN EXTRA CATEGORY**

I wasn't so taken with SEAN ROBERTS' WOULD YOU LET YOUR KIDS READ TODAY'S COMICS. Is he serious?? For a start, doesn't he credit kids with enough intelligence to decide what is reality & what is fiction ?? Surely, they must be pretty thick if they're influenced in any lasting way by whatthe media does. Sure, there are SOME who might jump out of windows trying to be BATMAN & some imitate KUNG FU & the like, but that doesn't mean they'll grow up that way (presuming they survive a 20 storey fall that is). Its through imitation & the lessons it teaches that children learn what is right & wrong about the scenes in comics, etc.. In addiction, if you open your average copy of BEANO, you'll find 10 ton weights dropping on people's heads, bombs blowing up in their faces, etc, etc.. Ask a small child about these & s/he'll tell you these things can't be done in real life. The child knows without having experienced it. **APPARENTLY, THE ADULT PRESSURE GROUPS HAVE ENFORCED THEIR WILL ON THE UK COMICS COMPANIES & ITS UNLIKELY YOU'LL BE SEEING SUCH EXAMPLES AGAIN - OR AT LEAST IN THE CONTEXT OF 'COMEDY'. AS TO INTELLIGENCE, AREN'T WE ALL FORGETTING OUR OWN ROOTS, I DON'T THINK ANY OF US STARTED OFF PARTICULARLY STREETWISE, WE ALL HAVE OUR NAIVE PERIODS WHICH MADE/MAKES US HEAVILY INFLUENCED BEYOND ALL LOGIC WE WOULD SHOW FROM LATER EXPER--IENCE. I CAN SEE SOME DIFFICULTY IN GETTING A BALANCE BETWEEN THE TWO ARGUEMENTS BUT IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO REACH A COMPROMISE WHICH WILL HELP THE CHILD TO DIFFERENTITATE THE DIFF--ERENCE RATHER THAN BEING WRAPPED IN COTTON WOOL.** As for the apparent male chauvinism of having large-breasted, perfectly formed females... Well, have you have a look at the males lately ?? Heroes & heroines are IDEALS that (rightly or wrongly) we look up to. Who would look upto a hero with a beer gut of a heroine with hairy legs. **THOSE WHO WATCH CORONATION STREET ??!! MIND YOU MANY LOCK 'UP' TO A SHORT GUY WITH ADAMAN--TIUM CLAWS THOUGH.**

The thing to remember (which seems to have been forgotten in this article) is that NO-ONE believes in fiction, not even kids. Anyone seemingly prompted into an irrational act by a comic, play, film or video-nasty was bound to do something like it anyway. Onto the X-MEN. DAN GREEN (as expected) is



doing a great job on J.R.'s pencils at the moment, isn't he ?? ≠ 181 was particularly good to look at for this reason. The X-MEN have been picking up in both art & story for some time now. ≠ 181, though a little sparce on character or plot development, was a very enjoyable read. And, what's this: More developments in KELLY's crusade against mutants ?? I think its going to be very interesting to see how the coming year affects the X-MEN (what with a presidential election at the end of it, too).

STEVE WHATLEY'84

X-FAN ≠ 516

Concerning ≠ 19, its only logi--cal that I start from the beginning. The cover was eye-catching & professional, though I couldn't quite grasp what was going on. The WEEZIE INTERVIEW had a well-thought out format, but she isn't giving anything away, is she ?? (Y'know, GEOFF, I've got this awful habit of putting 2 question marks everytime I write a question since I started reading CEREBRO. There's the influence of the comix world for you). Maybe ADRIAN SNOWDON should've tried bribery.

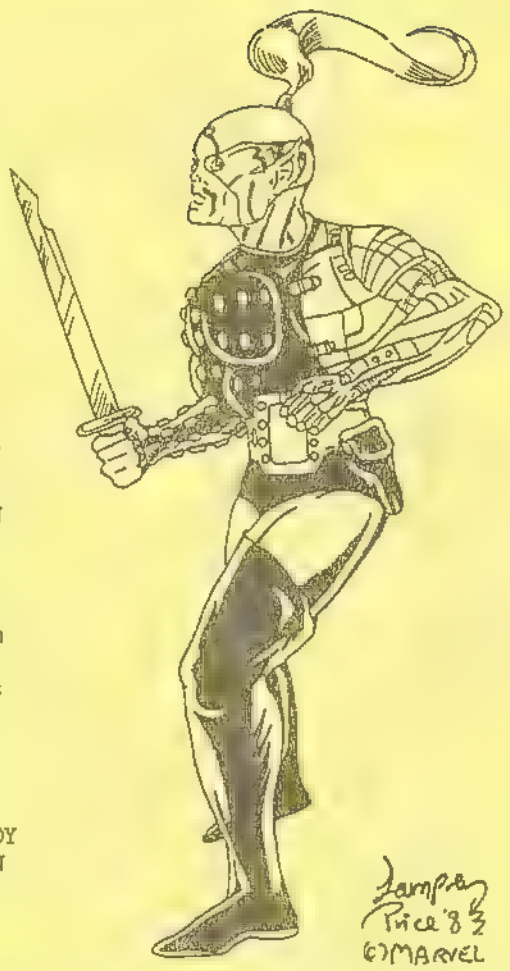
The PROJECT:WIDEAWAKE article sums up the Government's paranoia of mutants perf--ectly. The accompanying illo was just brilliant. I suspect you would have used it as a cover, but anywhere the logo was placed would obscure part of the drawing & so detract from the mood. The SILVER SAMURAI piece was a nice read, but that's all. I've always found SAMMIE rather boring.

The MARVEL UNIVERSE BREAKDOWNS made me understand the Government's fear of super-humans. Like LOUISE JONES, 70, 50 or even 5 tons being lifted is so beyond my grasp that it has no impact on me. I'm afraid the PRESS WEIGHT & FLIGHT EFFICIENCIES sections were just a jumble of numbers to me. Sorry.

The DARKFORCE article was interesting & made me understand more fully the abilities of certain heroes. I'm sorry, GEOFF, but I was almost completely lost in the GRAVITON feature. It made interesting reading to the latter part though. One more thing, GEOFF, you really must learn how to spell 'suspense'. Ah! An article I can understand & read well! EXPLORING ESP was a very good interview indeed. I must agree with you in answer to DAVE GRYC's X-PLETIVE in ≠ 18. Recently I bought an issue of an american 'fanzine' COMICS FEATURE at a colossal £1.75 which told me nothing I hadn't read in MARVEL AGE at 20p. Its true, there is an awful delay between CEREBROs, but it is better than half the quality in half the time, eh ??

Forgive me if I sound ignorant, but just who are that little group on page 39 ?? **MEMBERS OF THE IMPERIAL GUARD.** Speaking of dragons (which I wasn't), I think that maybe LOCKHEED's a dangerous intergalactic criminal & a posse from his homeworld will come & raze the mansion, almost kill COLOSSUS (what...Again ??) & take LOCKHEED away or better still, give him a public execution. Speaking of razing mansions to the ground, who does CHARLEY get to rebuild the masse everytime its destroyed ?? I can't see him letting everyday builders see the hanger & DANGER ROOM...Unless he telepathically removes the memory from their minds later on. **AS I RECALL, THE SCHOOL WAS BADLY DAMAGED ONCE & THEN TOTALLY DEMOLISHED IN ≠ 154 BEFORE THE SHI-AR CONSTRUCTION DID THEIR TRICKS ON IT.** The X-INDEX cover was good, but didn't do anything for me. How many times have we seen WOLVERINE in this pose before ?? In the BIOLOGY of WOLVERINE, its stated that LOGAN will not age as quickly as his fellow X-MEN & probably has limited immortality. Yet in X-MEN ≠ 141-142, he has grey hair & wrinkles. **IN 2013, WOLVERINE WOULD BE 33 YEARS OLDER & CONSIDERING HE IS ALREADY OLD ENOUGH TO COLLECT HIS OLD AGE PENSION HE WAS STILL PRETTY SPRY.** There's also this sudden upsurge of mutants in the MARVEL UNIVERSE. CLAREMONT is making every other person a mutant. I'm beginn--ing to sympathise with KELLY & WIDEAWAKE. Imagine, DOUG RAMSEY a mutant because he's got a flair for languages. Following CLAREMONT's logic, EINSTEIN was a mutant because he was a brilliant physicist, SEBASTIAN COE a mutant because he is a fast runner & DUNCAN MAYHEW because he is a good swimmer. Things are getting out of hand. **ALL THREE OF THESE GENTLEMAN REQUIRED A MEASURE OF TRAINING TO REACH THEIR LEVEL OF HUMAN ACHIEVEMENT. I THINK IT WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE SUSPECT THAT SOMETHING WAS ODD IF THE SPORTSMEN HAD ACHIEVED A WORLD RECORD AT THEIR FIRST EVENT. ADMITTEDLY, RAMSEY'S DOESN'T LOOK THAT OBVIOUS - OR ARE WE ASSUMING THAT HE IS WORKING THROUGH BASIC OR PASCAL & NOT DIRECT MACHINE CODE.** Lastly, the feature on ADAMANTIUM was very scientific & informative, though I'd say WOLVERINE has more than a molecule thin layer of ADAMANTIUM in his skeleton in the panel from X-MEN ≠ 142.

DAVID BARNETT'84



I SAID THAT WAS ONLY A POSSIBILITY NOT THAT IT WAS ACTUALLY DONE.

X-FAN ≠ 447

≠ 19 was the best cover I've see in quite a while. PETE MARTIN is one of CEREBRO's best artists. Use him more. The X-INDEX cover was good, too. Just one question: Can DANNY BRIDGE draw anything other than WOLVERINE?? By the way, who drew the picture on page 36. Its great.

SUE MASON DID. The rest of CEREBRO was upto its usual high standard & I especially enjoyed the BREAKDOWN article. In the HANDBOOK it stated that the CHAMPION OF THE UNIVERSE could easily lift 100 tons, making him far stronger than HERCULES or the ABOMINATION & MARVEL's strongest character. Looking down the list I noticed some odd strengths. For example, I find it hard to believe that STINGRAY is as strong as that (nearly 4 times as strong as IRON MAN). Reading the X-PLETIVES, I noticed that some people don't like JOHN ROMITA JR's art on the X-MEN. I can't see why. Sure he's not brilliant, but I've seen worse since BYRNE left. Speaking of BYRNE, is there anyone out there who still think his art's perfect?? His work on the FF recently has been the worse yet. In the SURVEY it asked whether you thought BYRNE should have an inker. I put yes, but I'm not sure if that will help. I would have thought someone of BYRNE's class would realize that nearly all his art since he left the X-MEN (& TERRY AUSTIN) stinks & would do something about it.

I would like to say some good things about the current X-MEN storyline but I can't think of anything. I only wish that CHRIS would hurry up & conclude the STORM storyline. I don't know about you, but I'm getting bored with it & her. Well, well, well. Look whoks back - EMMA (yawn!) FROST. C'mon, CLAREMONT, if you're

going to use the HELLFIRE CLUB, why does it always have to be linked to KITTY.?? ≠ 180 finis-
-hes with (surprise, surprise) our brave heroes running off to fight in MARVEL SUPER-HEROES SECRET WARS. Will someone tell me what's the point of this limited series because in MAY's comics, they're all coming back anyway. So, whatever significa-
-nant changes take place, we'll know anyway. **YES BUT DON'T YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW & WHY THEY HAPPENED ??** What did MARVEL do with their CCA stamp by the way ?? I can't find it on any of their comics anymore. Now that the X-MEN doesn't have the CCA stamp anymore, does that mean MARVEL doesn't comply by the rules anymore & can KITTY fulfill her secret fantasies with PETER ??

ALAN THOMAS'84

X-FAN ≠ 518 One trend that I have noticed is the magazine's bias toward 'factual' articles. I'm afraid I'm not much of a fan of those. I disliked the OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE intensely. I don't need to know who's the strong-
-est, fastest or whatever to enjoy my comics. Besides which, its all so relative anyway - for instance, is NIGHTCRAWLER stronger than WOLVERINE with a cold ?? Its very rare that anybody is functioning comple-
-tely, let alone 2 people so as to make a comparison. I like to enjoy the stories as they are without any semi-scientific explaination of how their powers work. CYCLOPS' eye-beams work because they do, like JOHN BYRNE said. **BUT I'M SURE YOU'D BE AMONGST THE FIRST TO COMPLAIN IF A WRITER TOOK A LIBERTY & MADE CYKE'S EYE-BEAMS A LASER INSTEAD OF A FORCE BEAM. THERE HAS TO BE SOME SORT OF INTERNAL CONSISTENCY.**

Anyway, that being said I still enjoyed most of the rest of the issue. I liked the 2nd part of the LOUISE JONES INTE-
-RVIEW a lot better than the first - more interesting ques-
-tions & answers this go-round. Any plans for interviewing ANN NOCENTI ?? The only thing that irks me about the interview is LOUISE's reference to the sales. I realize that sale = success in the comic world, as it does in most businesses, but she seemed very ready to compare, say, X-MEN ≠ 166 with ≠ 136. If you look at both of them, which of the two do you like best ?? Interesting points she made about JOHN BYRNE's contr-
-ibutions to the book, although thinking about it, it does seem in character for BYRNE to alter characters to how he sees them. He does seem to come across in interviews as a bit of a mono-
maniac. On the subject of REJE-
-CTION OUT OF IGNORANCE - I tried several times to intro-
-duce people to comics, always unsuccessfully. It makes me wonder if comics really are childish & perhaps we just can't (or won't) see it. I mean, break down the plot of your average comic & explain it to someone. See what I mean ?? Whenever I pick up the latest fan-favourite - X-MEN/TEEN TITANS/DAREDEVIL/THOR ?? - I always wonder if my feel-
-ings towards the book are affected by other people's praises. I usally find that it is, adversely. If someone really goes over the top with a book, praising & examining it, I always start looking for faults & thinking it isn't really as good as all that. When one of those religious groups thrust a leaflet unbidden in my hand, I usually skim through it & throw it away. The same can probably be said of comics to non-fans. Everyone does seem to have it in for J.R. Jr, don't they; myself included. I'm sad to say that the first 5 issues of his work left me cold. The only exception to this was the J.R. Sr (sounds silly, doesn't it?) issue. Still, his inks can improve most pencils. If J.R. Jr is to be permanent penciller on the X-MEN, he's going to need a fin-
-isher rather than an inker. Leaving out the obvious fact that some inkers maynot want the assignment I've prepared a shortlist: DAN GREEN seems to have got the job, looking at MARVEL AGE. He is certainly a very good inker. The only fault is he tends to blurr J.R. Jr like WIACEK did (see SPIDER-MAN ≠ 236, 246 & 249 for more evidence of this). Besides which, he doesn't give enough reality-detail to ROMITA Jr's competent, if uninspired, layouts. KLAUS JANSON is also an excellent inker. I love some of his stuff. Not over ROMITA Jr's pencils though. Still, he has done great stuff over layouts before - the DEFENDERS with SAL BUSCEMA spring to mind. And KLAUS did say he enjoyed working with ROMITA Jr. Not only that, but KLAUS' inks has a 'dark' quality about them which reflect the down-
beat atmosphere of the book at present.

TERRY AUSTIN would be great. But would be commit himself to the job ?? He's said before that he's more interes-
-ted in character than people knocking each other through walls & ROMITA's art is very action-orientated. Also, he's not too hot on the subtle character nuances that BYRNE was good at. So TERRY probably would do it. The '83 EAGLE AWARDS did seem to have more than their fair share of PASS marks. I can't believe that over 10% of fans haven't got a favourite creator. So obviously something is wrong. My solution would be to have 2 ballots. A first round free-for-all & then the top, say, 10 in each section would be on the final ballot - like the party constit-
-uency elections. Oh yes,

I agree that a lot of the sections could be done away with. Infact, most of them! The BRITISH SECTION was very poorly supported, which seems a shame. This is the first time we've had some comics & creators that I feel proud of.

PAUL HAYWARD'84

X-FAN ≠ 195 Is everybody happy with the X-MEN COMIC's dire-
-ction ?? I'm pleased with the addition of ROGUE but I wish CLAREMONT would get rid of that dragon. Unfortunately, after reading ≠ 181, it looks like he played quite a large part in the SECRET WARS. I thoroughly enjoyed MAGIK & recent issues of the NEW MUTANTS, but I do think ALPHA FLIGHT is a bit of a disappointment.

CHARLES FLETCHER'84

X-FAN ≠ 469 A cartoon series of the X-MEN wouldn't be such a bad idea if the animation was as decent as the series SPIDER-MAN & HIS AMAZING FRIENDS shown on BBC TV. An animated series would give people a better idea of the character's skills & powers & it is pretty good advertising for the comics industry. I didn't realize that LOUISE JONES & CHRIS CLAREMONT actually took the time to read fans' letters. I agree with LOUISE's view on the X-MEN parody in E-MAN. It was pretty boring & unimaginative. What terrific art for the cover of SHOKWAVE ≠ 1 on page 15. It has prompted me to send for it (as you are always encouraging us to do, GEOFF).

The APATHY- WHO CARES piece by SIMON JOWETT is just what some people need (myself included). When reading the article it reminded me of when I was on the dole, just 2 months ago, watching any & everything on the telly. Now with a great job in a small photographic studios, I don't have the time to watch drivel & would rather read a good book (or comic). I shall keep in mind what SIMON said & study & question what-
-ever I happen to be reading. OK, GEOFF, is I had ABSOLUTE POWER, I'd give mankind the knowledge & technology to explore the stars. Analyse away. **WHAT WOULD MANKIND DO WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THEY DISCOVER ?? WOULD GO OUT TO MAKE CONQUEST OR TURN THE GALAXY INTO A RUBBISH TIP ??** Yet another fantastic cover for the X-INDEX, this time by DANNY REDDEN, & I always learn something from the information. Whatever else happens, don't stop the X-INDEX. Keep it going.

TERRY WEBSTER'84

X-FAN ≠ 535 I feel I must begin my letter with an apology. My letter in ≠ 19 sounded rather infantile (slightly because of editing, so I must apologise for that). On we go. I loved the cover of ≠ 19, but who's scrawl graced (??) the botton right hand corner of the cover ?? **PETE MARTIN'S ACTUALLY**

Onto the inside- some very good illos. I especially liked DAVE ROACH's ones on pages 12 & 26 (I&m waiting for my cheque in the post, DAVE!) an' I also liked MARK MAGGOTT's one on page 33. Where's SANDY SCHREIBER ?? Only 1 illo in ≠ 19, compared to 3 absolutely brill ones in ≠ 18. The WOLVERINE INDEX cover was by far better than the SUNFIRE one, so congrats to DANNY REDDEN for that. Talking of ROSS COWIN (a.k.a. CROSS OWIN & SOWIN THE ROCS) I don't know what to make of him (try to be a toe-rag). One minute he's compla--ining, the next he's praising. In ≠20, he'll probably be on about KEN DAVID--SON's Yo-sanity-WOLVERINE & my WOLV--EYE. Watch out, COWIN, or the 2 crazed X-FANS will get you. I liked STEVE WHATLEY's WIDEAWAKE article. It told me a lot of things that I already knew & some I didn't. I also feel that CHRIS BUTLER & GEOFF should get some praise for the DARKFORCE article; but didn't the VANISHER have control over the DARKFORCE for a time whilst in another dimension with NIGHTCRAWLER??

JOHN INNES'84

WHICH WAS IN BIZARRE ADVENTURES ≠27. THAT WAS TRUE, BUT HE COULDN'T USE IT AS A TELEPORTING MEDIUM.

X-FAN ≠ 273 Y'know the, er, MAGIK MINI-SERIES was rubbish. I couldn't abide it. Basically, OK story but over-written to make it look more like an illustrated story as opposed to a comic. And a badly illustrated comic at that. Garbage. I expected much better. But then again I shouldn't have, after all CLAREMONT is so rapi--dly detoriating these days its laug--hable. GEREAT (he said in best RIK MAYALL voice) COVER by PETE MARTIN. Not just artwise but like last time, clever & oh so true. If you bought that awful trash the MARVEL UNIVERSE-lets-make-lots-of-money-from-suckers-who'll-believe-anything-HANDBOCK then show yourself & admit your shame. There's still time to repent. I wonder has it ever occured to MARVEL that many fans just don't care what/how/who or why about all these powers & stuff. The fact that we read the comics is enough. I mean, its all fantasy, right? This, & your BIOLOGY OF.. things in the X-INDEX, GEOFF, are to my mind irrelevant & OTT claptrap. Unnecessary & far too serious. I cannot, I just cannot get into such stuff & to be perfectly honest the things have me in stitches. I don't mean I read them & laugh. I mean the fact they exist & you people write them has me in hysterics. VERY amusing...I've read a few & it strikes me as if you're starting to believe your own garbage. MARVEL & GEOFF both. ENo offense intended to you, GEOFF, after all you do put a load of work into all this. It just seems so pointless when it usually isn't read (from what I gather from other X-FANS opinions) as many agree with me. I can only stomach a third to a half of the whole CEREBRO (to be honest, the only reason I stay is so I can stay a member of X-AP). The rest just leaves me stupified at its banality. OK, so its fantastically well-written in places but the subject matter is about as interesting as those 'sex-life of a baked bean' or 'inside a ping-pong ball' 10 page essays that you used to get as punishment at school. In short: BLOODY BORING. Sorry. This is just the way it is. **NEVER WROTE ESSAYS LIKE THAT AT SCHOOL. AGAIN, WE CAN'T ALL BE LIKE ROSS COWIN & HAVE TO DO DETENTION! NOBODY TOLD YOU TO GO OUT & BUY THE HANDBOOK. YOU COULD HAVE BLISSFULLY IGNORED IT. THE FACT THAT IT HAS SOLD WELL DOES SEEM TO INDICATE THAT THERE ARE FANS WHO DO SHOW INTEREST IN THIS SORT OF THING.** Power corrupts, ABSOLUTE POWER IS EVEN MORE FUN, is how I always thought it went. Just lurved the ABSURD MUTIES again. Any plans to reprint the lot in one go when the end is reached ?? Of course, if IAN intends to go on right up to date he'll never catch up & even then it'd be bleedin' massive. Maybe not such a good idea after all. GARY HENDERSON's illos suit this very well. Very good WIDEAWAKE article & accomp--anying illustration by PAUL CHOKRAN. One of the better parts of the zine. **EVEN IF IT IS A COGS & NUTS ARTICLE WHICH YOU DON'T CARE FOR, HUH ??**

Interesting bit on the SILVER SAMURAI. Good on yer, DANNY. Damn, he writes as well as he draws. Not too shabby an accompanying piece of art by GORDON FOULDS. I would have liked to have seen it larger as GORDON's art is rapidly improving every time I see it. But I can understand the limited space available in this rag.

The EAGLES are a farce. It seems only LONDON FANS get forms. LONDUMB may like this but the rest of the country doesn't. True, some forms get out but not enough & not soon enough as most are invariably sent out the week of the deadline. Great, huh ?? Also they are run in a pathetic way. Room for improvement is practically panoramic! I agree with you here, GEOFF.

I simply cannot abide modern cartoons, except full-length features (DISNEY, BACKSHI, etc) & COSGROVE/HALL products (DANGER MOUSE, etc). American cartoons are garbage. These days anyway. High amongst that pile of rubbish is SPIDER-MAN & HIS AMAZING FRIENDS. PLEASE NO MORE! The X-MEN done like this I would disown. I'd be ashamed to admit I read comics if this started. Gawd, the FF & SPIDER-WOMAN stuff, etc etc etc is so bad that I already turn a funny colour if it should appear on the screen before I can turn it off or over in time, stand--ing bravely upto the barely stifled sniggers of one's family. It denegrates the whole hobby back down to a 'komics for kids only' level. How many years have we, & still are, been fighting against this attitude. Can you blame a non-comic fan for laughing at you when you go on about how unchildish they are & then this, this utter GARBAGE flashes up to darken the day on a TV screen. Gah! **I TEND TO SAY THAT COMICS ARE PRODUCED FOR ALL AGES.**

VERY good piece on COLOSSUS by PAUL HAYWARD. COLOSSUS is my favourite X-MAN & I agreed with nearly everything PAUL said & I can't help but emphasize his last comment: 'COLOSSUS is still nearly a blank slate. Come on, CLAREMONT, write something on him!' Please, even!

ROSS COWIN'84

X-FAN ≠ 432 I loved the cover by PETE MARTIN. Why isn't that guy a profess--ional ?? The second part of the LOUISE JONES INTERVIEW wasn't as good as the first for some reason - perhaps all the questions had been asked. The EAGLE AWARDS were interesting but the number of nominees for each category was very limiting. I think that any section where PASS got more votes should have been declaired null & void eg FAVOURITE COMIC BOOK COVER, CHARA--CTER MOST WORTHY OF OWN TITLE. Prob--ably the highlist of ≠ 19 was the BREAKDOWN of MARVEL UNIVERSE data - tres interesting.

STEVE SPENCE'84

X-FAN ≠ 133 All in all, ≠ 19 was a good & fairly well-balanced issue. A

nice mixture of articles - all fairly brief but well-written & with enough diversity to maintain interest. All to often in fanzines the lettercol exceeds the majority of the rest of the zine but this issue balanced out, in my opinion with the articles winning out this time. I sometimes wonder about the valid--ity of interviews & the LOUISE JONES INTER--VIEW was no exception. As usual, lots of rather vague hints which really said very little & often hinted at little we hadn't already assumed. Still, there was plenty of opinion which was quite interesting & perhaps helped to balance things out. The PROJECT: WIDEAWAKE piece by STEVE WHATLEY was quite good & succeeded in presenting both sides of the coin. Mutants could be construed as a very dangerous minnority & their actions are open to interpretation. Also what right do they, or any super-hero, have to set themselves up to bring villains to justice ?? No matter how justifiable their motives they are not answe--rable to a higher authority, so what happens when they are mistaken ?? Who judges then ?? Who invests them with their authority ?? And who justifies their actions & methods ?? **THE ONLY REALLY 'AUTHORISED' GROUP SEEM TO BE THE AVENGERS AS I SEE IT.** This does, of course, tie in very well with SEAN ROBERTS' comments on violence in comics today. Not only is this violence more graphically port--rayed for children to see, but the heroes are not seen to be answerable for their mist--akes of modus operandi. It is this need to be answerable for one's actions which is so conspicuously absent & which is the problem with the increased portrayal of violence in comics. It is in a way, high time that the consequences of the fight scenes were shown. But not without some form of accountability.

My thanks to DANNY REDDEN for his article on the SILVER SAMURAI. He has never inspired me as one of MARVEL's most interesting vill--ains, so I was not overtly enamoured when he was introduced into the X-MEN's continuity. However, DANNY's background information was welcome to someone who knows so little about Japanese history & culture. In some ways the article has awakened some extra interest in the character of KENNICHIO HARADA.

I also enjoyed CHRIS BUTLER's ME & MY DARKFORCE SHADOW & PAUL HAYWARD's ALL HEART NO CHARACTER. I'm still amazed that so little has been done to advance PETEY's character since his first few appearances. Infact, the last time we had any real development in COLOSSUS as a person was when ARCADE tried to brainwash him! Since then, KITTY's joined the group & has been developed. ILLYANA's had her own mini--series & grown more 3-dimen--sional & STORM's undergone some radical changes. ROGUE has appeared & changed sides. All of these have had some attention paid to them but all PETEY seems to be good for is provid--ing romantic interest for KITTY, bashing walls & dying once or twice every few issues! As for his relationship with ILLYANA - well, its practically disappeared! Infact, thanks to her mini-series we know more about ILLYANA than COLOSSUS - & this deve--lopment has occured in less than one fifth of the time!! Ah well, such is fame I suppose.

Talking of ILLYANA, it seems that mysticism & fantasy are becoming more & more predominant in the X-MEN these days. Not always for the good of the book, which I've always viewed as predominately comicbook science fiction. They say change aids progress though, so maybe it'll pay off eventually. Guess I still just don't feel easy with magic bec--oming a major factor in the merry mutants lives. A little I can tolerate, a lot seems out of context.

Onto the EAGLE AWARDS! Definately didn't like the nominations idea. Seems we never know what else goes on as all other votes seem to be 'PASS' if not listed. I admit not getting mine in, but why no entry for U.K. FAVOURITE TEAM ?? What happened to the SPECIAL EXEC ?? They're a team, aren't they ?? Are we to understand that no one who voted mentioned any BRITISH team ?? Come on. There is something defin--ately wrong here! **I NOMINATED 3 ACTUALLY BUT WAS TOLD NOBODY ELSE DID.** Seems to be a little comment on the GRAPHIC NOVELS. Personally, although I bought both I didn't think much of them. They were both good stories (more so, the X-MEN story) but either of them could just as easily have been presen--ted in the actual comic books, or as annuals. The best bit of the X-MEN novel was the more humane treatment of MAGNETO. Along with the snippets in the comic, he has at last developed a much better & more believable character than the tyrannical megiomaniac he used to be.

KEVIN HARES '84

X-FAN # 211

GEOFF, I cannot understand your comments on my use of ABSOLUTE POWER in # 19. How would taking away weapons of war make a boring utopia ?? It maybe your idea of bloody good fun (pardon me) to kill people but not mine. I hope & think that the vast majority of people feel the same way & do not relish living under the threat of all life on Earth being wiped out. Also, where did I say take away man's agression ?? **YOU DIDN'T REALLY ANSWER THE QUESTION I ENDED YOUR PARAGRAPH WITH, NAMELY WHAT DO YOU EXCHANGE MAN'S AGGRESSION WITH ?? REMOVING WEAPONS OF WAR WILL NOT REMOVE MAN'S AGGRESSIVE EXTINCT TO LASH OUT AT PEOPLE HE THINKS HAS WRONGED HIM. HE'LL USE HIS FISTS & TEETH; OR MAYBE MAKE ANOTHER SET OF WEAPONS. SO, YOUR NEXT STEP IS TO REMOVE AGGRESSION - WHICH IS ESSENTIALLY A DRIVING FORCE IN MAN - & WE ALL END UP ZOMBIES.** Thanks for suggesting to synthesise JEAN GREY. I am quite looking forward to you sending me my ABSOLUTE POWER (does it come in a box or a tin ??). **IN A BROWN ENVELOPE. JUST HAD A FUNNY THOUGHT. IF I ARRANGED FOR A SPECIAL ENVELOPE & A DECREE INSIDE THAT GRANTS THE OWNER 'ABSOLUTE POWER' HOW MANY OF YOU MEMBERS OUT THERE WOULD WANT TO BUY ONE FOR YOURSELVES OR FRIENDS, TO AID CLUB FUNDS ?? I'LL NEED A HEFTY RESPONSE IF YOU DO.**

In answer to FIONA's AMAZING article, I did see the X-MEN in SPIDER-MAN & HIS AMAZING FRIENDS, but did any of you spot when the X-MEN lined up there was 2 CYCLOPS in the team ?? Also, a few weeks earlier we saw the old BROTH--ERHOOD OF EVIL MUTANTS. In the first of the series, we saw STORM & PHOENIX, but that was at a fancy dress party. Mind you, SPIDER-MAN turned up as SPIDER-MAN. I know I will be sorry for saying it & will probably get jumped on from all points of the compass but PROFESSOR X can now be put in the same category as PHOENIX. I mean, if JIM SHOOTER ordered her death for being a mass murderer even though she was a mental case at the time, does not the same apply to CHARLEY BOY for committing mass murder in the MICRO UNIVERSE ?? So, why not have MIMIC... Sorry, I mean ROGUE suck his brains out & let him jump off a bridge, preferably with a train running under it (how about that for an impress--ion of a Dark Persona & how much I like PROF--ESSOR X ??). **IT ESTABLISHED THAT THE DARK PERSONNA WAS A DOPPLEGANGER WITH A SEPARATE LIFE OF ITS OWN & IN THE END IT WAS DESTROYED.**

Which brings me round to will we be seeing a change in titles of the X-MEN to X-MENTAL

CASES as PROFESSOR X threw a wobbler in # 106, then JEAN was driven mad in # 132-136, then STORM had a do in # 147 as ROGUE STORM then flipped again in # 173 to be a punk rocker STORM, then PROFESSOR X flips his trolley again in the TEAM-UP with the MICRONAUTS. Now, its ROGUE's turn. Why don't they find a mutant to join the team who's a psychiatrist because the mutants need serious help. **COMPARED TO A MUTANT SHORTLY TO APPEAR CALLED 'LEGION', THESE WILL PALE BY COMPARISON.** It is stated SAMRON took his name from a character in the LORD OF THE RINGS but could it not have also come from the word 'SAURIAN' meaning lizard, which SAURON was ??

BARRY HOLLAND'84

I DON'T THINK TOLKIEN PROFESSED TO HAVE INVENTED THE WORD OUT OF THE BLUE, EITHER, SO THAT'S ITS SOURCE. THE X-VILLAIN HAS A THIRD GENERATION NAME DERIVATION.

X-FAN # 174 As the Club's official corrupted member, I thought I might as well send in a little letter, especially since GEOFF received less than usual last issue. So, what to comment on ?? Firstly, I'd just like to say, 'Good on you, STEVE PANKHURST!' Why ?? Well, he's obviously got excellent musical tastes from the subject matter of his letter: GENESIS, MARILLION, DOORS, RUSH & BRIAN MAY all getting a mention. Far out, Man! Hey! He's even an ELRIC fan - great stuff!!! I don't think he was trying to say all the X-MEN should go albino & carry demon swords. He was trying to say that CLAREMONT should learn from the pacing, atmosphere & visual possibilities of the ELRIC series. Similarly, I think CLAREMENT would do well to read some of ALAN MOORE's work (especially MARVELMAN) - who I believe has achieved the closest to comic book realism ever. This is no criticism of CLAREMONT (he's written some great stuff), but a writer really should study other examples of writing, otherwise he will never develop beyond his natural limit. Articles like WOULD YOU LET YOUR KIDS READ TODAY'S COMICS crop up regularly as an off-shoot of the pseudo-intellectual school of comic book moralising. Basically, SEAN is questioning the validity of letting kids read violent comic books. Right...As far as I could tell there seemed to be 2 options SEAN was suggesting. You could make the comics more 'realistic' in order to avoid stereotype good vs absolute evil & to show kids the true effects of violence (ie villains with cracked skulls, vomiting blood, etc, as SEAN Mentions). Fine. I haven't anythigg against this sort of violence & realism but I do know there would be a very large outcry from parents & MARY WHITEHOUSE types if SPIDER-MAN stories ended up like that. Parents aren't likely to consider the educational aspects of decapitated heads & entrails hanging out of one of WOLVIE's foes, especially in AMERICA, where there are quite a few religious fanatics who try & ban anything stronger than WALT DISNEY.

THEY'VE EVEN PUT THE MOCKERS ON THAT RECENTLY,TOO, IN REGARD TO DONALD 'HAPPY 50th' DUCK.

Your second option is to phase out those comics altogether since they paint a false view of the world. That is mindless censorship & a prime example of one person forcing his 'superior' rights & opinions on others...I assume that the majority of Club members would NOT like to see comics disappear for such a reason ?? SEAN then goes on to heap great pity on the 'poor criminals' who get beaten up by that 'anachist' SPIDER-MAN. Those poor deprived thugs rob, in SEAN's words, 'out of need 9 times out of 10'. Well, I really feel sorry for them ....Aren't we forgetting that the poor VICTIM who has lost his money & has probably been beaten up (with all of SEAN's delightful examples of cracked skulls, etc) has been wronged far more than the criminals. SEAN, are you trying to say that because these people are doing it out of need, they are allowed to beat up (& possibly kill!) someone & then rob them ?? And if not, how do you expect SPIDEY to stop them without violence ?? By asking nicely nicely ?? Come one..Show some of that realism you were talking about! As you say, violence is violence in any form, so when it comes down to the actual injuries involved, there is no difference between a super-hero doing it or a policeman. One has authority & one hasn't. But if that 'anarchist' hasn't acted, the criminals would have got away free. Is that fair to the victim ??

BASICALLY, THE SUPER-HERO REPRESENTS 'VENGENCE' & 'REVENGE' AS OUR REACTION TO WHAT WE WOULD DO HAD WE GOT THE CHANCE TO AGAINST SUCH CRIMINALLY MINDED PEOPLE.

Then we come to some classic SEAN ROBERTS, whereupon he commants that super-hero comics are threatening organised religion. Well, all I can say personally is 'good!' The less religious control over people the better it will be. 'Very little is mentioned in the way of Christianity' says SEAN. So what ?? There is no way of telling if the Bible has any more truth to it than in HOMER's ODYSSEY. Organised religion tends to be extremely intollerant of any other beliefs with a mindless 'There is only one God & that is the Sun God RA! Death to all unbelievers!' And quite honestly, if God is as the Bible paints him to be (committing mass genocide, destroying cities, etc), I think I'll take my chances with the Devil! 'Gods are even created which is as close to blasphemy as possible' says SEAN. A few centuries ago that would have led to a mass cry of 'burn the heretics!' & another blood bath. Blasphemy is just another example of intolerance of other beliefs. If you possess tolerance, then nothing will be blasphemous, least of all the adventures of THOR the THUNDER GOD in colour comics. The way SEAN talks he is saying that Christianity is the 'thing' & everyone else is wrong. To,-say, a MOSLEM, this would be blasphemy. Anyone for a stoning ?? Throughout history, organised religion has had very little to do with the so-called teachings of their God/Demon or whatever. And finally, SEAN latches onto the fact that us comic fans are all evil little perverts drooling all over pictures of big-breasted women. Well, at least we know why SEAN buys comics now...To hell with the plot, lets see more tits! I can assure you, SEAN, that if I require some 'large-breasted, slim-figured' women to drool over, comics are one of the last things I would consider buying. In case you don't know, there are a whole range of magazines kept on the top shelves of newsagants that cater for that sort of thing to both sexes. Perhaps you'd like to save up your SPIDER-MAN money & buy a few, that way you don't have to flick through all those unrealistic blasphemous stereotyped plots that get in the way of sex ?? So, to answer your final question, SEAN, no I don't think that comics are harmful. Tell me, what do you intend to replace them with ??

DON'T ASK ME EITHER. I'M NOT GIVIG EVERYONE ABSOLUTE POWER.

To end with I see there are still a couple letter writers commenting on this obscenity discussion regarding SANDY SCHREIBER's ANGEL & CANDY illo. It was a beautiful piece of art & if that counts as obscene, then we should have a bit more of it in the future.

ROBERT'THE CORRUPTED ONE'NOTT'84

X-FAN # 92 Just like to give my support to the 'Get-up-&-do-something' campaign. As SIMON JOWETT says, apathy is self-perpetuating. It really is so easy to suddenly find you've achieved nothing at all in the last few days... It can, of course, be quite debilitating to find you've achieved relatively little after quite a lot of work but this probably doesn't happen that often & can easily be overcome by properly managing your time. It really is surprising what can be achieved this way, just look at what GEOFF manages to do & he HAS got a real job as well, don't forget. **AND'GEOFF' ISN'T SURE THAT HE'S DOING ENOUGH. I MEAN, JUST AS A PASSING COMMENT, DOES ANY MEMBER THINK RUNNING A FAN CLUB FOR THE PAST 6 YEARS IS A LASTING MONUMENT ??**

Sitting in front of the television can be fun & shouldn't necessarily be dismissed out of hand,but there are an awful lot of other things that are also fun if only you'll get up & look for them. I really enjoyed the BREAKDOWNS. Guess I'm more of a facts & figures man than I thought. Various things were a bit confusing though, like the METAFORM business but I

assume you're discounting people like COLOSSUS, but then you're including people like the HULK. Just like to challenge the categorising of DAREDEVIL. Check out DD # 188. Quote from STICK, 'It ain't the radiation. Never was.' In other words, he ain't a mutate. I'd like to see more in this line (the BRE--AKDOWNS, not the anomalies).
YOU'RE RIGHT, IT SHOULD BE 5 META-FORM MUTANTS. AS TO DAREDEVIL, ONE CAN'T BE SURE STICK WAS BOLSTERING DD'S SELF-CONFIDENCE. WITHOUT THE FAITH IN SUCH ABILITIES ANY RADIATED ENHANCED SENSES WOULD BE MEANINGLESS.

I'm not happy about NIGHTCRAWLER & the DARKFORCE. The reason any 'passen--gers' find themselves rendered uncons--cious is the shear strain of being dragged through the teleportation process. As I recall, NIGHTCRAWLER himself used to be torn apart by having to carry someone. There's also the connection between the teleporting & how it disr--upts the magnetic field lines. Surely moving through another dimension, especially one spacially different from this one would not have this effect, although the stresses involved in ente--ring & leaving could lead to such a disruption. It still doesn't explain the brimstone aspect either, since no one's mentioned it in relation to DARKSTAR, SHROUD or CLOAK.
MAGNETIC STRESS CAN BE PUT DOWN TO FINDING THE EASIEST ACCESS POINT TO TELEPORT THROUGH. THE TIME NIGHTCRAWLER SPENDS THERE MUST DISRUPT ITS STRUCTURE & HENCE THE SMELL, WHEREAS THE OTHER USERS USE IT AS A GRADUAL PROCESS. IF SPACE IS DISTORTED THERE, THEN TIME HAS TO BE, TOO, & A SPLIT-SECOND PASSING THROUGH COULD RELEASE ALL KINDS OF GASES - EXPLAINING THE CONDITION OF HIS PASSENGERS & WAGNER HIMSELF IF HE SHOULD BREATH IT. All in all, I really enjo--yed this issue, still am as a matter of fact, since exams have rather held up my reading recently. Hardly surpri--sing I like it though, since inter--views & things like the BREAKDOWNS & analysis of the MARVEL UNIVERSE a'la the INDEXES, GRAVITONS & ESP articles tend to get nicely involving, especially since I'm doing a course on modern physics, including sub-atomic particles in school at the moment.

RICHARD HARRIS'84

X-FAN # 247 I was fascinated by the BREAKDOWNS from the MARVEL UNIVERSE. Because of my leave of absence I missed the all-important issues plus the ones I've seen on sale are about £2 each & to buy them would break my comic budget.

I enjoyed the PROJECT:WID--AWAKE article by STEVE WHAT--LEY. I am looking forward to see what the U.S. Government come up with (or any other government). Speaking of other governments, I have always wondered why the Russians have never tried to get COLOSSUS back. Of course, we had the PROLETARIAN in #124 but that was ARCADE's doing. COLOSSUS cannot be the only Russian mutant & I'm sure any others would not have his attitude about the West. I would say that any other mutants would have been snap--ped up by their government & made into 'People's Heroes', like ARCADE made COLOSSUS think he was.
YOU'VE OBVIOUSLY MISSED THE APPEARANCES OF THE SOVIET SUPER-SOLDIERS (DARKSTAR, VANGUARD, URSA MAJOR & LATELY, THE GREMLIN) IN IRON MAN, ROM & INCREDIBLE HULK. I THINK WE WILL COVER THEM IN A LATER CEREBRO SINCE THEY'RE MUTANTS

Its interesting to see how MAGNETO's character has chan--ged since his first appear--ances. Then he was an enemy of the world because he was truly evil but now he seems to be a 'villain' because he hates the way that humans treat mutants. He is also classified as a hero by the BEYONDER in SECRET WARS # 1.

ANDREW CHESTERS'84

X-FAN # 393 After reading the UNTOLD STORY OF PHOENIX, I thought it was pretty incon--clusive. Obviously the final draft of # 137 was far better than the original which, after having read the DARK PHOENIX tapes, I tend to agree with the creative team involved that the ending of the orig--inal was a cop-out. The final stand by SCOTT & JEAN against the superior numbers of the IMPERIAL GUARD & then the next scene where JEAN under--goes psychic surgery seemed to me like a badly edited movie, proving that JIM SHOOTER was RIGHT in changing the ending. My own idea of resolving the PHOENIX crisis is this: The PHOENIX entity & JEAN were 2 separate beings, the PHOENIX force using JEAN as its host body, needing her as a 'channel' for its power. Therefore JEAN was NOT resp--onsible for destroying the D'BARI system. Surely what was said in the DARK PHOENIX TAPES was true, that the little girl in the movie, 'THE EXORCIST', after being exorcised - was the fact that no one wanted to kill her after the priest had rid her of the demon; she not being responsible for her/its actions. **THAT WAS A PERSON--AL DECISION ON THEIR PART. IF BELIEVED IN A COURT OF LAW THE RESULT WOULD BE DIFFERENT. IF WE'RE NOT CAREFUL WE'RE GOING TO CONSIDER ALL MURDER--ERS AS INFLUENCED BY DEMONS WHO ONCE EXORCISED WOULD BE ALLOWED TO GO FREE. ANYONE CARE TO SEE THE YORKSHIRE RIPPER LET LOOSE ??**

I've an idea on how it could have all been resolved & would have left JEAN alive. I know the WATCHER is not supposed to interfere, but CHRIS could have had the WATCHER exorcise JEAN, taking the awesome PHOENIX entity into himself leaving JEAN cleansed like the priest in the film. Only, unlike the priest, the WATCHER would have lived, being able to control the evil influence of PHOENIX with his own vast power. That way, JEAN would still have retained her MARVEL GIRL level of power & could have gone back to Earth with the X-MEN.

COLIN TOUGH'84

BETTER STILL, HOW ABOUT USING A HANDY DANDY FRATISTAN WHICH CAN CLEAR ALL STORY PROBLEMS AT A FLICK OF A SWITCH ??THAT'S REALLY THE EASY WAY OUT & NOT REALLY CONFORMING TO THE LOGIC OF THE STORY. THE WATCHER WOULD CERTAINLY NOT INTERFERE, ESPECIALLY WHEN REPRESENTATIVES OF 3 GALAXIES WERE WATCHING.

X-FAN # 417 Not much to say about # 19 except it had the usual interesting articles. The front & X-INDEX covers weren't the best I've seen, but at least they weren't the worst (has LOGAN had a haircut or what ??). The MARVEL UNIVERSE BREAK--DOWN came in handy as I always wanted to know who was the fastest, strongest, etc but I could not be bothered to search through every issue comparing everybody to each other. All in all, another fact-filled, chock-a-block, interesting entertaining (X-PLETIVES was another good cont--rast of views) & humourous (ABSURD MUTANTS was up to its usual absurd standard & the X-OUTING strip made me smile) issue. Hey, LAMP, is it right or left after the outer nebula to get to SLEAZEWORLD.?? **3rd STAR TO THE LEFT & WARP DRIVE TO MORNING.** I'm sick of seeing these last-page deaths in the X-MEN when you know they will be fine the next issue. Has CLAREMONT got something against COLOSSUS ?? Is that why he keeps 'SPLATING!' PITOR all over the book ?? I don't know, but one thing for sure is that I agree with the PITOR article in # 19 - he should have more characterisation as at the moment he is one great big piece of wet cardboard.

I don't like this new artist doing the X-MEN, but maybe he will grow on me like SMITH did.

Speaking about artists, I do think BYRNE needs an inker (maybe AUSTIN).

Have you seen WHAT IF ≠ 43's second story ?? You might as well say PHOENIX lives again. Why do people keep doing PHOENIX stories?? (First, DARK PHOENIX, now DARK PROF X & next ?? Maybe PROF X's son ??) Why do people keep saying it was wrong to have her die ?? Don't get me wrong I like JEAN GREY but it was right to kill her - to die that way & to punish her for killing billions of people. I think CLAREMONT & BYRNE tried to show this & prove this when in X-MEN ≠ 140, WENDIGO was punished for his crimes when he was turned into a man (even if he couldn't control his actions when he was WENDIGO like JEAN when she became DARK PHOENIX). He was punished only for a few deaths, surely JEAN had to, for billions dying.

To me, most of the PHOENIX re-birth stories since ≠ 137 have been totally useless. The WHAT IF PHOENIX story (≠ 27) just made a bad story out of a good idea. Was someone at MARVEL trying to say, 'Hey! If PHOENIX had lived, the same thing would have happened anyway. She would have died. It could have been worse than in ≠ 137, she could have destroyed everything else as well, not just herself!!!!' The best PHOENIX story so far was the DC & MARVEL TEAM-UP, but I thought this would have been better used in the X-MEN comic not some side-show. I didn't think much of ≠ 175 as I thought it was a big letdown, but it didn't seem so bad when you see its MASTERMIND's doing. I had mixed feelings when I saw the PHOENIX UNTOLD STORY. It was nice to see the original ending, but it lacked that certain element that ≠ 137 had. It even seemed boring in a way I cannot explain. **PROBABLY BECAUSE THE CHIEF FACTOR IN THE X-MEN'S SUCCESS IS THE SUSPENSE BETWEEN ISSUES. HERE YOU ALREADY KNEW THE CONCLUSION.** It would have been nice to see more of JEAN in solo stories before she died, but I will always remember her as one of my favourite comic characters. Looking back at the last page of the UNTOLD STORY at the splash page of JEAN & SCOTT, I started to think how nice it would be to see the original ≠ 138 story if JEAN had lived in a special.

ANDY FOXWELL'84

BUT APART FROM THAT PAGE & AN ENDING WHICH SHOWS NIGHTCRAWLER GIVING JEAN A FLOWER & WOLVER-INE SHEDDING A TEAR (SEE X-MEN COMPANION &/OR COMICS FEATURE ≠ 4), THE BULK OF THE STORY IS JUST THE SAME & UNLIKELY TO SUFFER DIALOGUE ALTERATIONS....OR ARE WE PUTTING IDEAS IN MARVEL'S COLLECTIVE HEAD ??

X-FAN ≠ 411 PROJECT: WIDEAWAKE was a good article. The idea of the Government setting up their own team of mutants & that they could end up fighting the X-MEN could lead to some good storylines, especially if some of their team know the X-MEN.

I have liked the SILVER SAMURAI ever since MARVEL TEAM-UP & he has become one of my favour-ite villains; even though his costume does look out of place, I like it - it makes a difference to the normal costumes all the heroes & villains wear. I must admit I was surprised to find out there is someone else out there crazy enough to count the panels in different issues, even though I sometimes do that. To count the number of panels in 12 issues & the number COLOSSUS appear-ed in must have taken a lot of patience as when I try it I generally end up forgetting the number I am on & have to start again. Its funny that I had never noticed just how little exposure he had had.

Talking about the EAGLES, I think it would be a good idea to combine artist/writer as most of the best books around are now either written/drawn by the same person or it is co-plotted ie BYRNE's FF, CHAYKIN's AMERICAN FLAGG, GRELL's JON SABLE, TEEN TITANS, LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES & THOR. I could carry on by mentioning others from the past which shows how much better the stories are if the artist is involved in the writing.

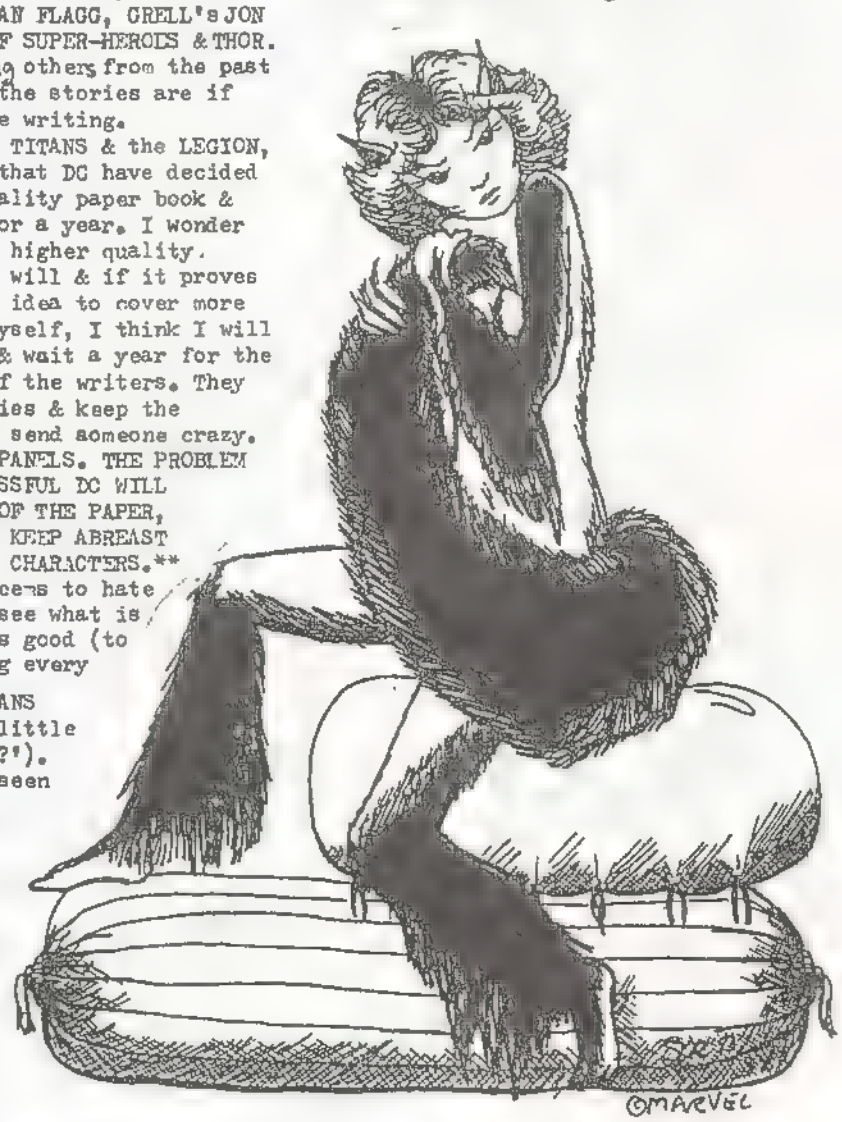
Having just mentioned the TITANS & the LEGION, I was really annoyed to see that DC have decided to upgrade them to a good quality paper book & bring out 2 issues of each for a year. I wonder how many people will buy the higher quality comic ?? I expect that a lot will & if it proves successful DC may expand the idea to cover more of their successful books. Myself, I think I will stick to the regular comics & wait a year for the stories. Imagine being one of the writers. They have to plan 2 years of stories & keep the continuity right...Enough to send someone crazy.

UNLESS THEY ALREADY COUNT PANELS. THE PROBLEM AS I SEE IT IS THAT IF SUCCESSFUL DC WILL ATTRIBUTE IT TO THE QUALITY OF THE PAPER, NOT BECAUSE THE FANS WENT TO KEEP ABREAST OF WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE CHARACTERS.

Why is it that everyone seems to hate JOHN ROMITA's art. I do not see what is so bad. Infact, I think it is good (to say the least) & is improving every month. What about the FUTURIANS GRAPHIC NOVEL then ?? (& no little comments like 'What about it?'). The art was the best I have seen from COCKRUM & the story was great. I can see why he took so long over it now. The powers of the FUTURIANS were great. SILVER SHADOW being my favourite already - the way he goes from shadow to shadow is such a good idea its unbelievable. WEREHAWK & TERRAYNE have great powers as well. So much was put into the one story it was unbelievable. What with introd--ucing the characters, how they got their powers, the friendly rivalry (?) between TERRAYNE & BLACKHAND, the sexist ways of WEREHAWK & so on. Even though the story had the 'split-the-team-up-&-then-join-to-fight-the-menace plot it was very good;& hey, what a fantastic double page COCKRUM drew. Sorry to go on about this, but never have I been so excited about anything as much as I am about the FUTURIANS. Lets hope that they will be seen again & not just disappear from sight.

SIMON WHITE'84

X-FAN ≠ 206 Now, what can I say about PAUL CORNELL's NORTH OF THE BORDER article ? Nothing, you all probably think, particularly as I'm still recovering from EXETER CITY's latest result, plus the local team I play for lost this morning as well & I've pulled a hamstring for my pains. Anyway, I've wandered off the point a little, haven't I, as I always do. Its known as the fanzine editor's aliment which hits us all after a while. I mean, GEOFF's been suffer--ing for years. Why do you think he's been dressing the way he does recently ?? Well, the truth about our little NORTH OF THE BORDER trip is probably unprintable in CEREBRO. I mean, do you all really want to know what CAROL LIVINGSTONE showed PAUL CORNELL at the hotel & what they spent the evening doing together in the same hotel room! I did hear PAUL mutter something the next morning about playing SCRABBLE into the early hours & far be it from me to disagree but DAVE GRYC had the room next to them & he says he certainly heard some funny noises for a game of Scrabble. I mean, then there was MILES BOOY & that innocent French girl - but



I'm not one to spread malicious gossip so I'll leave it khere, except to say that Scots girls were so nice. PAUL WEST'84

X-FAN # 371 The first thing I must comment on is PAUL CORNELL's 'report'. Strangely enough, I can't seem to recall that trip at all... I checked my 500 year diary, but no mention. Pity, it sounds as if it was fun. Must repeat the experience next year - this time with 2 Mars bars & an egg box !? The data on who's strongest/fastest/et al did nothing for me, I'm afraid. I like trivia but since I can't conceive of some--one lifting 2 tons, never mind 70, most of the info went over my head. **THAT KIND OF WEIGHT WOULD LAND ON IT. WOULD IT BE ANY EASIER IF WE CAME UP WITH A CHART OF OBJECTS WHICH WEIGH THESE AMOUNTS TO GIVE A BETTER IDEA OF WHAT THEY ARE CAPABLE OF ??** Liked PAUL CHOKRAN's illo for PROJECT:WIDEAWAKE. Pity it did not print too well in my copy. I also sniggered mightily at his illo on page 41 (heh heh). FURY's new 'weapon' would have HYDRA killing themselves laughing.

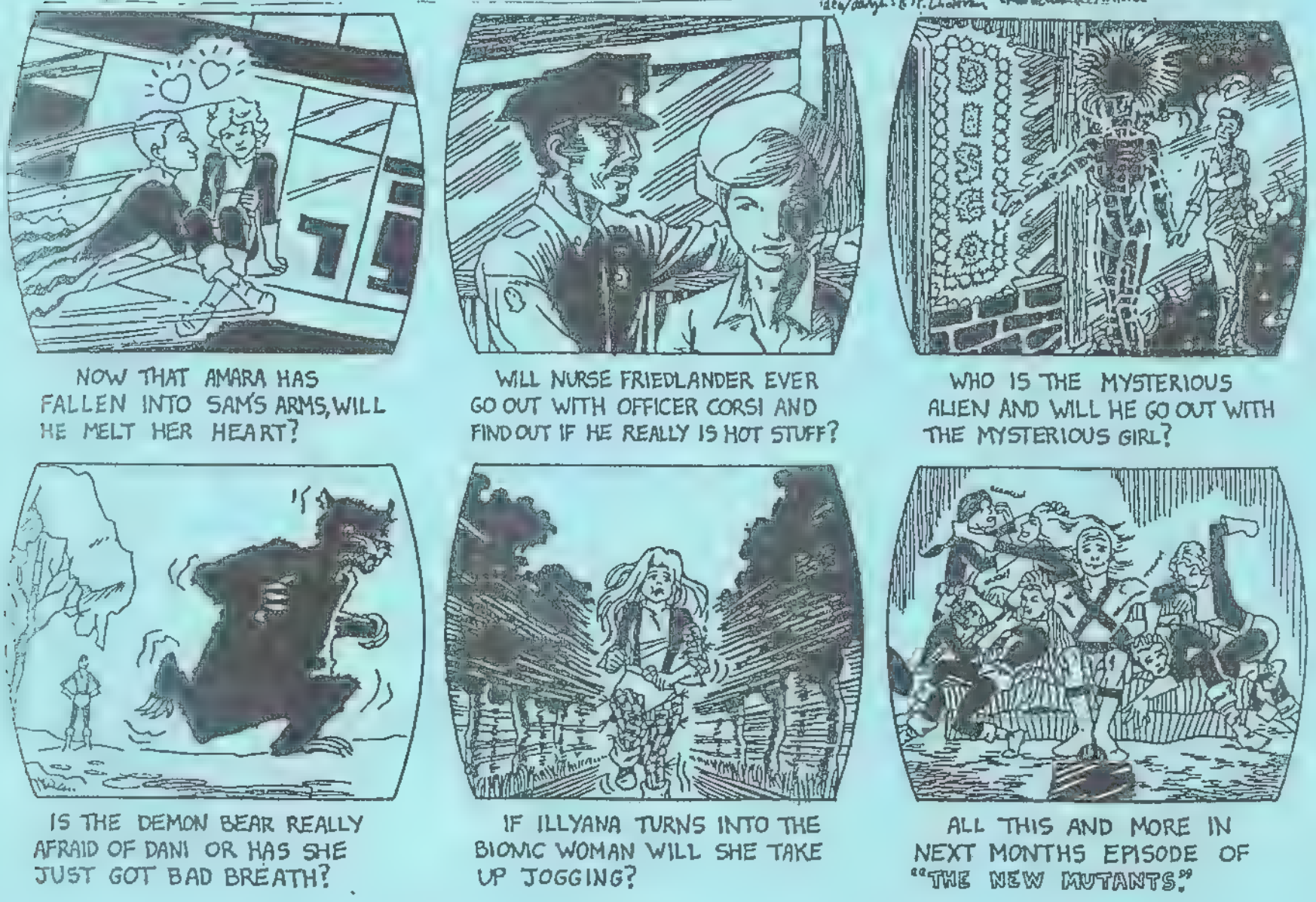
Being a long-time believer in ESP, I found the article on it very interesting. Good idea to interview someone well-versed in the subject. I wonder how many - if any - of the Club members have experienced psychic phenomena ?? I personally have dreamt about future events & sensed ghosts. Anyone else a little bit psychic ?? **I CAN SEE ME SETT--ING TESTS SOON. IF ANY OF YOU FANCY A PRECOG TEST, SEND ME A SEALED ENVELOPE WITH YOUR PREDICT--IONS FOR 1985 TO BE OPENED IN 1986 & WE'LL SEE HOW CLOSE YOU ARE. THIS WILL BE MAJOR EVENTS THAT ARE LIKELY TO HIT THE NEWSPAPERS SO CAN BE VERIFIED EASILY. DON'T PUT ANY OTHER CORRESPONDENCE IN THAT ENVELOPE COS IT WON'T BE OPENED FOR 2 YEARS.**

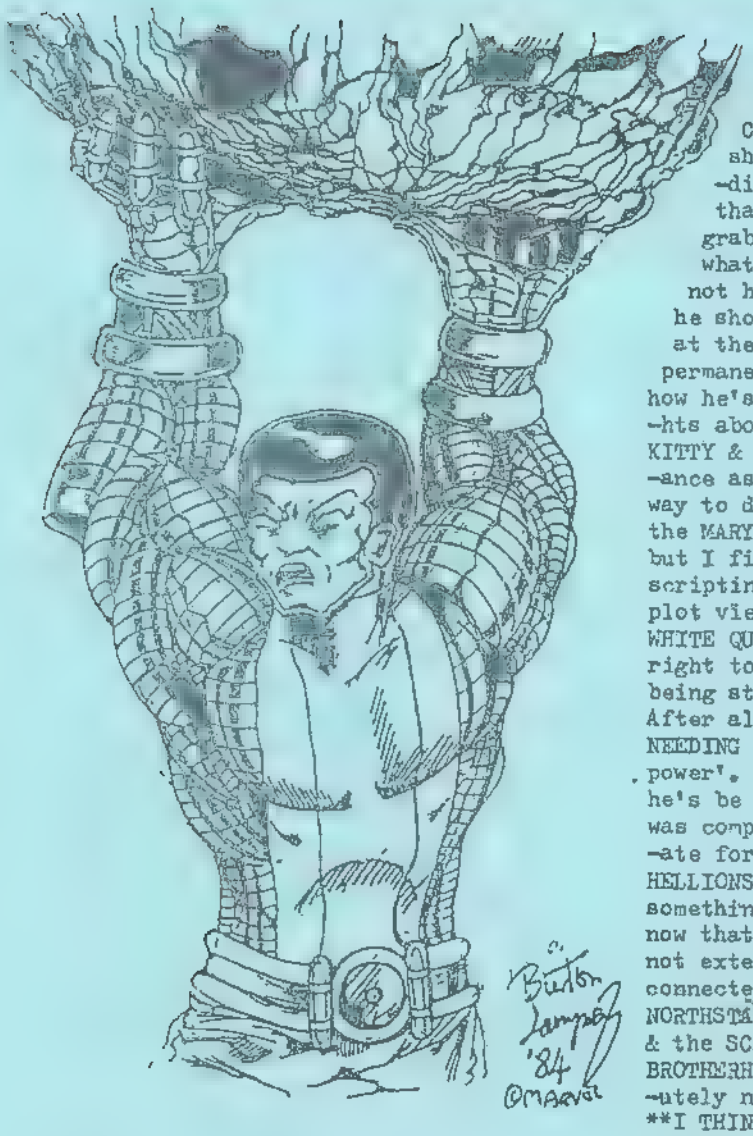
ALL HEART, NO CHARACTER. How true, how true. Old PIOTR really needs some attention. The potential is there, but I think CLARE--MONT maybe cannot decide which way his characterisation should go, so he's in limbo as far as development goes. All the other X-MEN have been developed beyond 2-dimens--ional people, so why not COLOSSUS ?? Surely he must have had SOME reaction to being 'dead'?? It would certainly make him recon--sider his basic outlook on life. COLOSSUS strikes me as the kind of person who would think & be affected by such events, but he hasn't so much as mentioned the change in STORM. KITTY's fling with DOUG RAMSEY is accepted without much more than a token protest which rang very false. Even mild-mannered PIOTR gets angry sometimes! With all that has happened to COLOSSUS there should be a reflection in his character, his reactions - SOMETHING! Since we've recently had issues spotlighting characters, how about one on COLOSSUS ?? **LIKE IN #183, YOU MEAN ?? AFTER THE LITTLE FIGHT HE HAD THERE, MAYBE HE'S TOO AWARE OF WHAT HAPPENS WHEN HE LOOSES HIS TEMPER.** I'm going to stand on my soapbox here & proclaim I like JOHN ROMITA Jr's art! (as inked by DAN GREEN). BOB WIACEK is taking a lot of stick from fans, but he's not that bad an inker, is he ?? He improved COCKRUM's art in his 2nd X-stint. Trivia time: Hands up who spot--ted the TALES OF THE GOLDEN MONKEY refer--ences in X-MEN # 176 ?? The articles on apathy & criticism were both excellent; could not have put it better myself. Negative criticism is always easier to put into words than positive. Positive criticism can help an artist or writer see their work from another perspective & someone who has confidence in his/her work will be able to argue their point or use the criticism to improve some points. Trouble is, friends are usually frig--htened to say what they think for fear of hurting your feelings. Better a bruised ego than a total deflation when the creator shows badly-constru--cted work to the critical public. I'll call a halt before that develops into an article on its own.

APATHY - aarrgh. Terrible disease! Its a condition I see a lot at college & very contagious. The alternatives, as SIMON said, is work & it really is better to exercise your mind & stretch your intelligence. Stagnation is nice, but very dull. And as she departs the soapbox...There is lots more to comment on - haven't even touched on the letters - but I have no more time. Meanwhile, keep goin', LAMPREY, you're doing a good job (boot lick, grovel...)

LORRI GOODISON'84

X-FAN # 396 Ho hum. My first letter for some months, reflecting my current lack of interest in the X-MEN, or anything connected with them (don't worry, I'll still be resubbing!). The stories are dull & CLAREMONT seems to be running short of people to (appar--ently) kill - I suggest himself if he continues in the current vein of soap-operatic plot. I can just see it. In next month's exciting episode, find out if CHARLES has recovered the use of his limbs. Will the simple-learned Russian giant reveal his love for the young KITTY - & will the authorities catch him if he does !?? All this & more in the next thrilling episode of X-SOAP. Well, maybe its not that bad,


NOW THAT AMARA HAS FALLEN INTO SAM'S ARMS, WILL HE MELT HER HEART?
WILL NURSE FRIEDLANDER EVER GO OUT WITH OFFICER CORSI AND FIND OUT IF HE REALLY IS HOT STUFF?
WHO IS THE MYSTERIOUS ALIEN AND WILL HE GO OUT WITH THE MYSTERIOUS GIRL?
IS THE DEMON BEAR REALLY AFRAID OF DANI OR HAS SHE JUST GOT BAD BREATH?
IF ILLYANA TURNS INTO THE BIONIC WOMAN WILL SHE TAKE UP JOGGING?
ALL THIS AND MORE IN NEXT MONTHS EPISODE OF "THE NEW MUTANTS."



but you can see what I mean anyway.

There are some good comics about though. SIMONSON's THOR is wonderful, with superb art & a nice line in slightly off-beat stories. THRILLER is excellent, the nearest I've seen to graphical film noir - complex & invariably incomprehensible plotline with some real 'alternative' characters & nicely stylised art. AMERICAN FLAGG is the only other real goodie, with CHAYKIN being sophisticated & provocative as well as showing lots of pictures of big-titted ladies in kinky underwear. No doubt DAVE PRICE will want him to draw the X-MEN & put 10" onto KITTY's chest & her tee-shirt after it.

It would be nice to put some depth into COLOSSUS if we could make CLAR--EMONT do it - but we'd probably discover that he is called RASPUTIN after his grand--father, that his uncle is the RED GHOST & that he wears Levi jeans with extra-large labels.

I didn't buy MARVEL UNIVERSE beca--use : 1) I couldn't afford it &
2) I don't really care that SPIDER-MAN prefers PIZZA HUTT to MacDONALDS or that STORM's nipples are of different shades of blue (no doubt a later edition will correct this cataclasmic error).

Still, the BREAKDOWNS were useful for all the number-crushers out there.

ADRIAN REYNOLDS'84

X-FAN # 344 The articles on PROJECT:WIDEA--WAKE & the DARKFORCE DIMENSION were very interesting & just the right length. Cong--ratulations to DAVE McKENNA on his break--down info on the MARVEL HANDBOOK. I hope MARK GRUENWALD is suitably appreciative. The time spend in compilation & cross-checking must have been considerable. It looks like its going to be useful for some time to come. **DAVE'S WORK WAS CONCERNED WITH 'COPS' MORE THAN THE BREAKDOWNS, HE SAYS, GIVING CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE.**

You asked in the SURVEY whether I still enjoyed the X-MEN. Well, the answer is yes ...But. The but being that apart from #175 (the return of a strong intelligent CYCLOPS) the issues since the BROOD/SLEAZOID saga have been rather pedestrian & derivative of earlier X-MEN stories written by CLAREMONT. COLOSSUS in particular should be more careful about atten--ding opera at the LINCOLN CENTRE - that was, after all, where ARCADE grabbed him back in X-M # 123-4 & whatever happened to his date - I've not heard of her since. I also think he should have words with CLAREMONT - at the moment, he's being made the permanent fall guy by the villains & how he's supposedly having second thoug--hts about the exact status of himself, KITTY & DOUG RAMSEY. The latter's appear--ance as KITTY's love interest maybe a way to defuse or deflect criticisms from the MARY WHITEHOUSE brigade over there, but I find it unnecessary & unconvincing scripting from a narrative as well as a plot viewpoint; especially as - if the WHITE QUEEN is to be believed - he is right to be worried. I also object to his being stuck into the role of a mutant. After all, his 'powers' are such as not NEEDING to be explained away as an 'extra power'. If we HAVE to have him around, he's be a more pivotal character is he was completely 'normal' so a non-candid--ate for either the X-BABIES or the HELLIONS. Still, the better to give you something to fill up your X-INDEX with now that WOLVERINE has been reached. Why not extend it to other mutants closely connected with the X-MEN - AURORA & NORTHSTAR from ALPHA FLIGHT, QUICKSILVER & the SCARLET WITCH & the rest of the BROTHERHOOD (marks 1 & 2) even (if absol--utely necessary but I hope not) DAZZLER. **I THINK CLAREMONT HAS DEFINITE PLANS TO DEVELOP MUTANTS IN NON-COMBAT ROLES TO SHOW THE DIVERSITY OF MUTANT TALENT. I DON'T THINK RAMSEY IS QUITE THE KIND OF MATERIAL REQUIRED FOR THE HELLIONS, BUT AS AN ADMINISTRATOR WOULD BE LIKELY TO FIT A SUPPORTATIVE ROLE LIKE SEBASTIAN SHAW'S AIDE, TESSA. ANYBODY SPOTTED HER MUTANT ABILITY YET ?? & NO, ITS NOTHING TO DO WITH HER KINKY OUTFIT.**

Lets hope CLAREMONT can also sort out the 'CRAWLER/MYSTIQUE/ROGUE situation. Then there's ILLYANA, the 'little sister' with, I feel, enough mutant/mystical power to be the most serious claimant CHRIS has produced to the vacant throne of 'cosmic' level power since PHOENIX. After all, if she simply wished to, she could simply transport her enemies to limbo & either leave them there to live out their 'natural' life-span or hunt them down at her leisure - with or with--out sorcerous/mystical means. She's the major reason I prefer the NEW MUTANTS to the X-MEN at the moment & will probably continue to enjoy it even after SIENKIE--WICZ (ick!) takes over the pencilling & inking.

One question I'd like to put to CLAREMONT is whether or not it is because of, or inspite of, her position as ruler of LIMBO that her mutant 'stepping discs' always have to go through LIMBO. After the revelations in NMs # 15-17 (including KITTY's apparent 'mystical' ability to 'see' ILLYANA's astral body) it will be interesting to see how PROF X & the rest of the X-MEN deal with the problems that are going to arise - assum--ing that is, that S.H.I.E.L.D. & the U.S. GOVERNMENT leave them alone long enough to even begin to try to sort something out.

Turning to X-PLETIVES, I was sorry to read that you would not be printing any of the entries to DAVE PRICE's G.K.L.S. competition although I can see that an X-certification issue of CEREBRO might cause printing & postal troubles; although this would be balanced by the scarity value of a non-distributed copy, assuming of course, that you weren't nicked by the Obscene Publications Squad. Still, you could always sell your story to the SUN - it'd be safer than them discovering the 'real' contents of your so-called X-MEN FAN CLUBZINE. **I GATHER DAVE PRICE IS PLANNING TO RELEASE THE RESULTS IN X-AP & THE ONLY WAY MOST OF YOU ARE GOING TO GET THAT IS IF YOU CONTRIBUTE & COVER YOUR SHARE OF ITS PRINTING/POSTAL COSTS.**

Anyway, now onto some of the other letters & subjects raised. Unlike JEAN ROGERS, I didn't find the picture of KITTY in # 18 obscene. My definition of that ter-- would limit it to depictions of violence (especially in connection with sexual activity, as for instance in rape or sexual assault) or some--thing like beastility. I'd be inte--rested in hearing opinions on the picture above the letter - definately. My own was, firstly, what IS he doing with that tail. The second, I hope she's not ticklish. I wonder if his blue fur is as much a turn-on as BEAST's.

Also, a hearty hello & welcome to JOHN INNSS (no compost jokes please) - hope you stay in the Club for a long time.

MARTIN DRURY's suggestion of a new line-up for the X-MEN is interesting. SIRYN would surely be expected to join the X-BABIES at least at the start though. Also, perhaps BANSHEE does not feel AMERICA is the place to be, what with the growing anti-mutant feeling. MADROX is a good suggestion since he would be able to add depth to the team without being able to hog the limelight or be the obligatory 'HULK' strength character MARTIN dislikes. However, the super-strong do fulfill a useful purpose in most teams & so I'd be loathed to do away with all these types. On balance, I think someone of COLOSSUS' approximate strength (although not necessarily

his height or powers) should be available, even if only part-time or in an emergency. Given the choice I think any replacement should have the ability either to fly or tele--port whilst carrying at least one other member without any real diff--iculty. After all, STORM can't & shouldn't be expected to look after everything like that herself as well as confront the enemy in a full-scale battle.

Also, why does MARTIN want one of them to be a negro ?? If simply to have another X-MAN (or woman) from a minnority group, why not an Hispanic (the States' largest growing minnority) ?? Or, as a compromise, a black Hispanic, of which there seems to be quite a few in NEW YORK CITY at least. Alternat--ively, another East European or even possible Chinese - someone who could share PETER RASPUTIN's pride for their homeland, even while disapproving of some of the actions taken by their government. My only reservation would be the probable lack of an extensive research done into the new hero/heroine's back--ground - if they can't be bothered to get information on SCOTLAND & ENGLAND correct, I dread to think what they could do to a place where mechanisation & 'moderisation' (in terms of how technologically advan--ced Americans & Europeans tend to view it) really is patchy.

KEVIN GREEN's dislike of ROMITA Jr's artwork is not somthing I share. Infact, I like it better than SMITH's although I'd like to see the latter do work elsewhere for MARVEL - perhaps a graphic novel or something so that I could see just how good he is. I do agree though about the X/NAUTS M-S, which in principle at least had the makings of a good story but petered out around the middle of # 2-3 & to have 'DARK XAVIER' as the baddie was something I could not believe was seriously put forward. What a cop-out. Still, there's only WOLVERINE left to pick on. COLOSSUS went bad in the ARCADE encounter in # 123-4, we've had ROGUE STORM, an evil NIGHTCRAWLER (sort of, in # 160), an evil KITTY (CAT in MAGIK)...Its a pity ROGUE's just joined or she'd be the next.

So, JOSE ROACH wanted a bad inker?? In that case, he need simply look at last year's AVENGERS ANNUAL if he has the stomach to take it - I cert--ainly don't. The MILGROM/SINNOTT cover was competent without being anything exciting, but the artwork inside was appalling! I don't know where they dredged up this RICK MAGYAR person from but I sincerely wish they hadn't bothered. He's 'credited'(?!) as 'finisher' over BUTCH GUICE's 'breakdowns'. Well, he certainly finished it for me - I hope he gets dumped on DAZZLER so I can ignore his work from this point on. I have no hesitation in blaming MAGYAR for the mess rather than GUICE as I have had a chance to see the latter's pencill--ing in the previously slagged X/NAUTS M-S, where his inker was one of 'JOSE'S' favourites: BOB WIACEK. By the way, is JOSE pronounced Mexican style as in 'Ho-Say' or more European as in 'Joe-Say'. Just curious.

DONALD THOMPSON'84

I PREFER TO PRONOUNCE IT 'DA-VE'.

X-FAN # 547 Hello, all you X-FANS. As I'm rather new to this Club & this being my first X-PLETIVE, I'll just give you my first feelings on how I find the X-CLUB & Club mag.

IN CASE ANYONE WAS offended BY OUR ACTIONS IN ISSUE #16, LET ME JUST SAY THAT WE WERE ONLY KISSING! HOWEVER, WE DO PROMISE NEVER TO DO IT AGAIN... ...OUTSIDE. RIGHT, CANDY?
RIGHT, ANGEL-FACE.
AT LEAST, NOT AS LONG AS THOSE NEW DEFENDERS KEEP HANGING AROUND!
©MARVEL Comics

The Club itself seems pretty well run, knows where its going & how its getting there, etc. Pat yourself on the back, Mr. BAMPREY & Co.. The Club mag (or zine to you purists among you) is well worth the money. If you've got an interest in X-MEN & chat about them, than CEREBRO is for you. On the other hand, I find CEREBRO one-eyed or blinkered in its contents (not that I've anything against CEREBRO) but I think you'd attract more people by opening up CEREBRO's scope. Maybe by cutting down on the X-MEN & associated articles ?? But as its the X-MEN CLUB mag all of you X-FANS expect (or is it demand ??) nothing but X-MEN-type stuff - quite understandable. Anyway, only a true X-FAN could call himself, or herself, a 'true fan' by taking 2 issues of CEREBRO & read them both cover to cover one after the other.

Liked the article on ESP, even though I didn't take it seriously. Maybe its got something to do with the fact that I don't believe in ESP ?? Still, I found it interesting in an odd type of way.

The rest of # 19 was full of the usual high standard X-MEN stuff. On the whole, I give # 19 6.0 for effort & 5.9 for content.

STEN ALLWOOD'84

X-FAN # 108 Assumes JOHN CLEESE voice, 'Yes. Right. Fine. I see. Ah well!'

Drops J.C. voice, but goose steps wildly around the room for several minutes before returning to desk & picking up pen to resume.

Its all very well meant I'm sure, but I'm afraid its just not good enough. Now is it, really ??

CEREBRO # 19, I mean. That cover, with the somewhat megacephalic LOGAN & the angst-struck CYCLOPS really sums up the whole thing as far as I'm conc--erned. A hearfelt moan of, 'Ch good grief!' indeed.

I mean, pardon the language, but who really gives a rat's ass to learn that the BLOB's left nostril has exactly the same radius as AURORA's naval - & possibly the same radius as the aforementioned rodential sphinter or other bits & pices of data of equally significant import ?? **ME NEITHER. MAYBE THAT'S WHY IT WASN'T IN THE HANDBOOK.** (Opens mouth, pre-- pares to insert foot - again!)

In my arrogant opinion, the core of # 19 was like the X-INDEX gone berserk - as I've always considered the X-INDEX CEREBRO's weakest part, you can see that I didn't really take too warmly to it.

Look, I hate to burst anyone's

balloon but the X-MEN & their fellows are comic book characters - analyse if you will the literate & artistic merits or drawbacks of their medium or rant, rave & rhubarb to our hearts' content about the ethics, emotions, impressions or internal coherency of the 'universe' they inhabit, but the only possible point to putting forward pseudo-scient--ific theories to explain how they do this or massive lists of facts, figures & trivia data is to provide a pertinent & permanent reference source for people who want to write stories about the X-MEN. And anyone who is about to write a story would need,at most, 2 or 3 of the facts presented which they could dig out of the MARVEL source material for themselves without having it force-fed to all & sundry in the middle of a fanzine. **I'D DISPUTE THAT. THE BREAK--DOWNS DEFINATELY DO FALL INTO THE CATEGORY OF INTERNAL COHERENCY OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE, ESPECIALLY IF IT IS INTENDED TO BE USED AS A SOURCE MATERIAL** (Snarl! Growl! Waiter, more meat for table six!) After being so overwhelmed with bullshit at first approaching # 19, I waited 'til I had cooled off & then began - cautiously I might add - to read the rest of it. It was surprisingly good. The average length of article seems to have dropped a little, but that means that more articles can be fitted in, so I guess that's a case of 'swings & round--abouts'. Nice to see new people sending stuff in as well, makes a member of the old guard glad to see these young whip--per-snappers giving it a shot.

But how come only 35 letters ?? Don't you people know that 'there ain't no such thing as a free lunch'?? WRITE - if you like the X-MEN enough to spend money on the subs to the Club, you have to be at least marginally bright enough to appreciate the more subtle aspects of the book - & if you're that bright you have opinions, be they inspiring, humourous or just plain loopy. The letters page is there for you to expose those opinions. Lets have a bit of debate & discussion in those LoCs from now on, OK ??
(You may have noticed by now, this is NOT a Mr. Nice Guy sort of letter - what do you intend to say about it ??)
'IS THIS PRIVATE, OR CAN ANYONE SHARE YOUR BRACKET COMMENTS ??:(ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE MAKING THE ROPE LONG ENOUGH TO HANG YOURSELF WITH ??)

I'm not even going to heap lavish praise on the good stuff in # 19 - it was there & we all saw it. I EXPECT good stuff from CEREBRO.

On a final note of stirring things: For a zine into its 6th year, the over--all layouts, print quality, compositing & proof-reading of CEREBRO stinks. Talk of production cost all you wish, folks, but the number of typos, poor layouts & plain bad arrangement of material looks to me like plain old sloppiness. So, stick that in your dragon & smoke it!

PETER J. POOLE'84

I DON'T SMOKE DRAGONS - THE SCALES RUIN MY TEETH. 42 LETTERS THIS TIME IN CASE ANYBODY IS COUNTING. I'VE A FEELING THAT THERE WILL BE MANY MORE NEXT TIME SO BE WARNED, ANYTHING LESS THAT A LINE ON A SUBJECT MAY BE EDITED OUT BUT TALLIED TOGETHER AFTER & USED AS A STRAW POLL, SO LETS HEAR YOUR MISSIVES ALREADY (& BEFORE DEADLINE TOO IF YOU CAN HELP IT, HUH ??).

OH, & A NICE ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR THE X-PLETIVE ILLUSTRATORS THIS TIME ROUND - SOME REALLY NEAT CONTRIBUTIONS.

COULD THIS HERO BE A HEROINE ?

'Could this hero be a heroine' is a phrase normally associated with CHRIS CLAREMONT, as quoted by JOHN BYRNE in what should have been an outake in an interview he gave to the COMICS JOURNAL (# 57, if anyone wants to check the issue concerned).

However, with the death of JAMES MacDONALD HUDSON a.k.a. the GUARDIAN, an interesting situation arises as to the future of HEATHER MacNEIL HUDSON in relation to ALPHA FLIGHT. As the origins have been disclosed in the earlier issues, it is obvious even to a novice that HEATHER HUDSON has been involved in some way with the recruit--ment of all the team. They, in return, regard her highly as a friend & are now very much concerned with her welfare after her husband's death.

With the high-action technique which BYRNE employs with ALPHA FLIGHT, HEATHER HUDSON could very likely end up as either a fifth wheel or worse, be continually placed in positions where the team have to bale her out. For Mrs. HUDSON to take an active part in the book it can only be logical that she becomes a member of the team OR drops out of the book - somthing I doubt BYRNE has in mind.

So, is there any reason why she shouldn't become a heroine on the team?? The lady has a lot of spunk & spirit to succeed at whatever she attempts. A role such as this would give her something to live up to the beliefs of her dead husband.

Would this mean the advent of a new GUARDIAN ?? I feel this would be very likely as HEATHER shows no innate abilities & would have to have some form of artificial aid...The GUARDIAN battle-suit tidily fits this role.

One copy of this suit blew up with her husband, but the cybernetic helmet which controlled it + the only one of its kind - did not! It is very probable also, that HUDSON had a spare battle-suit to fall back on should the need arise. Even if he hadn't, it is very conceivable that ROGER BOCHS could make HEATHER a copy of the suit.

All the ingredients for this have all been hinted in the comic book & unless BYRNE has other plans, is likely to be carried out simply cos he has invested a lot of time exploring HEATHER HUDSON's character.

Assuming that the above is the case, I cannot see HEATHER using any of her husband's code names. WEAPON ALPHA is unwieldly & masculine. VINDICATOR has possibilities simply as a name to act as avenger for her husband. Being called GUARDIAN is likely to check her actions in a fight & remind her too heavily of her husband. In point-of-fact, any of the above names is likely to do that & a new code-name ought to be sought.

I gave this much thought. The GUARDIAN battle-suit's colour scheme is supposed to represent their native land. In essence, JAMES HUDSON was 'CAPTAIN CANADA',although slyly called 'MAJOR MAPLELEAF'. There, my thoughts stayed. 'MAPLELEAF' certainly has an appealing sound to it - being both a reminder of CANADA & has a certain amount of femininity attached to it. There would be little reminder to HEATHER that the name was associated with that of her husband - its unlikely she would have heard anybody call him that - & any self-respecting villain is likely to call her that the first time they meet.

Whether HEATHER HUDSON will take over the role as team-leader of ALPHA FLIGHT remains uncertain. From the view of experience I would certainly say not. Although, in the long run her dominating spirit would inadvertently allow her to fall into that role. Until that time, leadership would probably fall onto MICHAEL TWOYOUNGMEN - SHAMAN - with possibly PUCK acting has his immediate advisor. SHAMAN does not have all the necessarily qualifications to be a leader. Leaders should have be more ruthless in their actions when leading their group into battle & SHAMAN's concern for human life would certainly inhibit that.

Whether HEATHER HUDSON - maybe called 'MAPLELEAF' - has these qualtities only time will tell. Its worrying to discover that she may be the only candidate for her dead husband's position.

LAMPREY'84

THE X-(CERTIFICATE) MEN

In the words of the COMICS CODE AUTHORITY, 'Illicit sex relations are not to be portrayed...seduction maynot be shown...In no way shall the breaking of the moral code be depicted as rewarding'. Or, to put it another way, as JACK KIRBY didn't eaxctly say (X-MEN ≠ 98), 'I tell ya, they never used to do THAT when WE had the book.'

Things have changed since then - & a good thing too. We readers have grown older since the original X-MEN, & so have most of the team. If they have aged less than they ought, they have to some extent compensated for this by growing conside--rably more real. So naturally they have also become, in all senses of the word, much sexier.

One result of this is that the pin-ups, which it has long been the custom of super-hero comics to bestow upon the fans as a special treat, have acquired new implications. Pin on your wall SPIDER-MAN in his re-vamped costume (SPIDER-MAN ≠ 252) & imagine yourself swinging above the rooftops of MANHATTAN, righting wrongs. But pin-up, say, the cover of X-MEN ≠ 177, & your fantasies are likely to be unsuitable for family viewing.

Is this a bad thing ?? It means treat--ing a character as a sex-object, but what's wrong with that ?? Well, what is undesirable about being a sex-object is not the 'sex' part of the expression, its the 'object' bit. If the X-MEN are to be real people, then sex will be part of their lives. A sequence like the bath--room scene between NIGHTCRAWLER & AMANDA (X-MEN ≠ 169) is not only dramatic, it tells us something about the sort of people they are. And for my money, the sexiest scene ever printed by MARVEL is the one between SCOTT & JEAN (X-MEN≠132): you remember, she takes his glasses off!

The problems start when we are invited to get a sexual charge from a scene which has no such significance for the partic--ipants. This doesn't, perish forbid, happen often. When it does, it seems characteristic of cover art, & plays two themes. Look first at ≠ 163, 177 & 168 also showing KITTY with her shirt sugg--estively slashed.

≠ 163 is pure space-opera: Well-deve--loped girl unsuitably & inadequately clad cornered by a BEM whose intentions are clearly dishonourable. Compare this to the handling of the story itself,where a theme of reproduction (what could be more sexual ??) is treated as straight horror. ≠ 177 emphasises a part of the narrative designed to mislead. In each case, the stress is on our heroine's vulnerability & 'physical qualities' (CCA again). If these images turn you on, its because you are momentarily seeing KITTY not as a person for whose fate you are anxious & afraid, but as a sexy body.

This particular treat does appear to be reversed for those of you who get your kicks by gloating over under-age girls. When an X-MAN is staked out for our admiration (X-MEN ≠ 169), its another matter. The cover pushes the captive ANGEL (fully dressed) into the background, & balances this image with an emphasis on the rats-&-slime horror element. (Does anyone know why the original cover, reproduced as the cover of COMICS FEATURE ≠ 28, wasn't used ??).

Inside (pages 18-19), the sexual content of the situation is made explicit, but within a context of disapproval. We are permitted to see WARREN through CALLISTO's eyes, because the reaction of the other X-MEN ensures that we do not sympathise with her. A nicely balanced piece of having it both ways.

And then, the very next issue (X-MEN ≠ 170) brings on the women wrestlers. One black, one white, a cover plus a double-page spread - what more could anyone ask ?? What's that ?? You're kinky about old-fashioned corsets ?? In that case, I refer you to the cover of X-MEN ≠ 152 (STORM vs the WHITE QUEEN - or vice versa) & I rest my case.

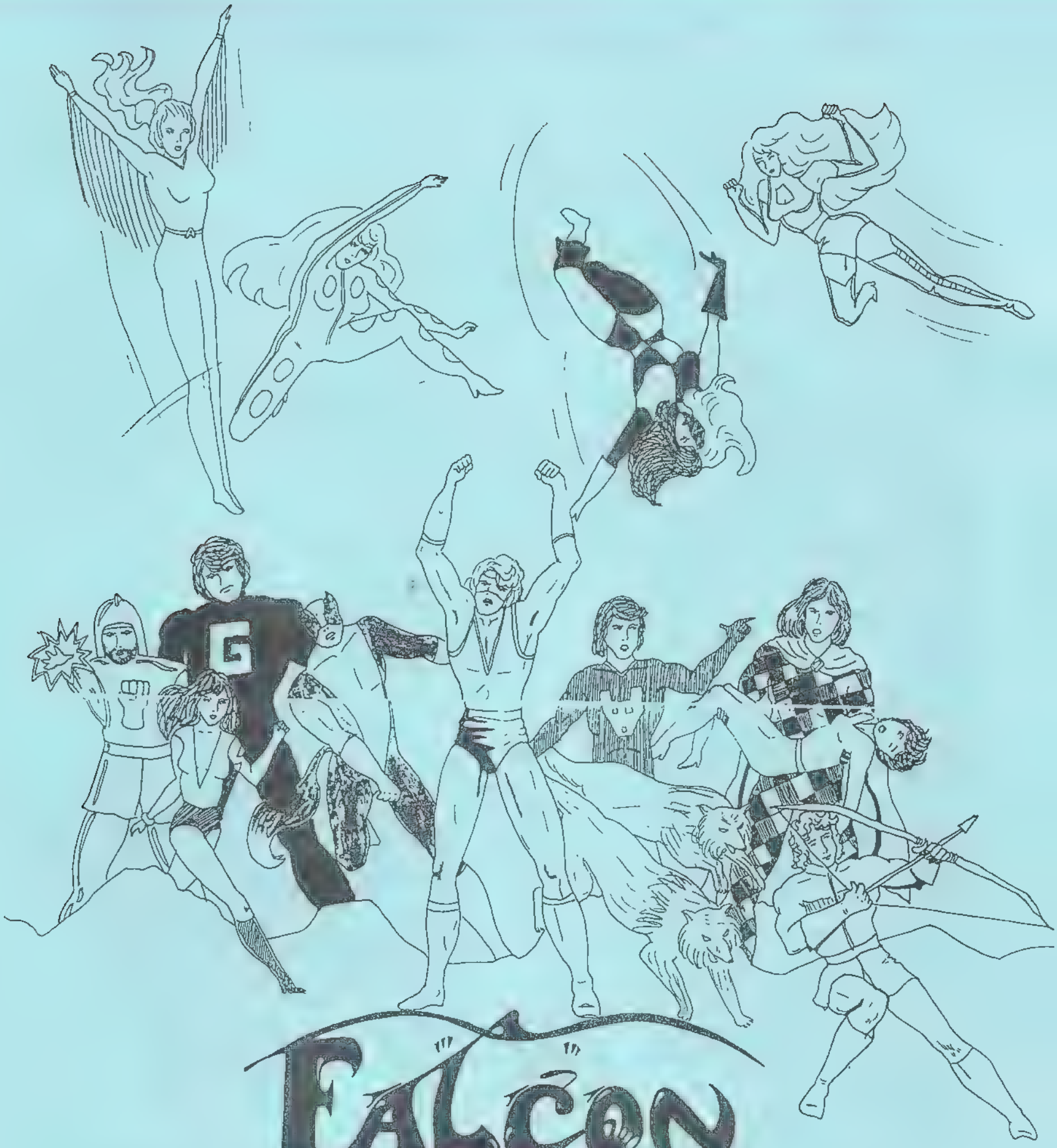
So much for the X-rated material of the comics themselves. You may have started out thinking that its all in my filthy mind, so I've argued it at some length to show that that is not the case.

When we turn to fan-produced pictures, no such doubts are possible. Lets not even discuss the Super-Heroines who appeared in an early X-AP (a portfolio of different heroines, but all with costumes coming apart in the same strategic places, & all with the same body revealed as a result). Just look at a few recent issues of CEREBRO, & its quite clear that if I have got a dirty mind, I'm not the only one.

This isn't the start of a 'CLEAN UP CEREBRO CAMPAIGN' - but it is an invit--ation to all you talented artists to respect your material. Fantasize about a strict KITTY if you must (CEREBRO ≠ 18 page 25) - but bear in mind, before you rush into print, that it reveals more of you than it does of KITTY.

Of course its only meant to be harmless fun, but fun's only fun if you are allowed to be serious some--times. Would you find this kind of depiction of your favourite (male) hero endlessly amusing ?? (WOLVERINE in black lace ?? Well, it would make a change...). Perhaps women are a little humourless on this subject; but consider how long the role of women-in-comics have been exemplified by LOIS LANE, & you'll realize that we have a lot to be humourless about!

JEAN ROGERS'84



H·T·M·KENWARD
GAMES AND PRODUCTS
J·S·BURGESS
GROUND FLOOR FLAT,
163 HOMERTON HIGH STREET,
LONDON E9
(TEL: 01· 986 4246)
GRAPHICS CALIGRAPHY COMICS GAMES DESIGN

CHARACTERS ©Falcon Games and Products, From the game ULTRA HEROES©

THE HISTORY OF ABSURD MUTANTS

The X-MEN were a little confused. They had eventually managed to get back to the disabled toilet on INTERSTATE FREEWAY 47 where they had left CHARLIE some 12 hours earlier. Now, there was no sign of him & they were at a loss to know what to do next. The toilet door opened & a frightful apparition emerged. It had a shock of unruly hair on top of its face & an unkempt beard under--neath. An identity tag on a filthy boiler suit proclaimed that this was RUFUS, a State employee, whose metier it was to service freeway comfort stations. He appraised them with a knowing smile: 'Aah...Let 'im behind ? They're always doin' that.' RUFUS spat, delicately.

HANK expressed a collective hope: 'I don't suppose...A bald man in a wheelchair...?'

RUFUS leered, displaying decaying teeth between which a belch echoed eerily. 'Yes. Best 'un I seen fur a long time. I were just goin' on duty like, when BALDY comes out, trundles over to the verge an' looks for you car. I dunno what he was goin' to do, but before he could do it, this flashy car with a yacht on a trailer whizzes pass. There's a jib stickin' out from the yacht an' it catches his wheelchair. Next thing, he's whizzin' alongside.'

MARVEL GIRL expressed a collective gasp of horror.

RUFUS continued: 'I wuz gonna call the cops, but then I see the car turn down the first slip road on the right. The one that leads to ANDERSONSVILLE MARINA. I didn't both cos its not far an' any--way I hadda check the toilet rolls.' He rubbed the side of his nose knowingly, dislodging flakes of ancient grime. 'Always the first thing I does.'

EYESMAN thanked their unclean informant &, after a short & bumpy ride, they reached the ANDERSONSVILLE MARINA. A tanned & healthy-looking man in a yachting cap came out from the adminis--trative blocked & offered his services. ANGEL summarised their problem.

The man frowned. 'Oh dear. That was most unfortunate, wasn't it ? Yes, I remember what happened but I don't think you're going to like it. The car driver's a bit of a speed merchant, you know, & when he stepped on the brakes, your friend came loose, shot off that jetty over there, ' & he pointed, '& landed on the deck of a small cruiser that was just about to pull out. Its owner was put out,' & he chuckled dryly at his little joke, 'because the wheelchair made a bit of a mess of the wheelhouse. Greek chap. Name of POPADOPOLOPOULIS. Terrible temper. I could hear him shouting from here. Unleashed a stream of foreign oaths then put your friend to work as a deck--hand to make up for it. Poor chap was in no position to argue, crawling about on the deck in a daze. Then they set sail, east-sou-east, I should reckon. Sorry I can't help you any more.'

'Oh, but you can,' piped up ANGEL. 'Can we charter a boat & follow them ?'

The man looked doubtful. 'Wesell, this is really a private establishment, but I suppose under the circums--tances...'

A few minutes & a few credit cards later, the X-MEN were heading out into the vastness of the ATLANTIC OCEAN.

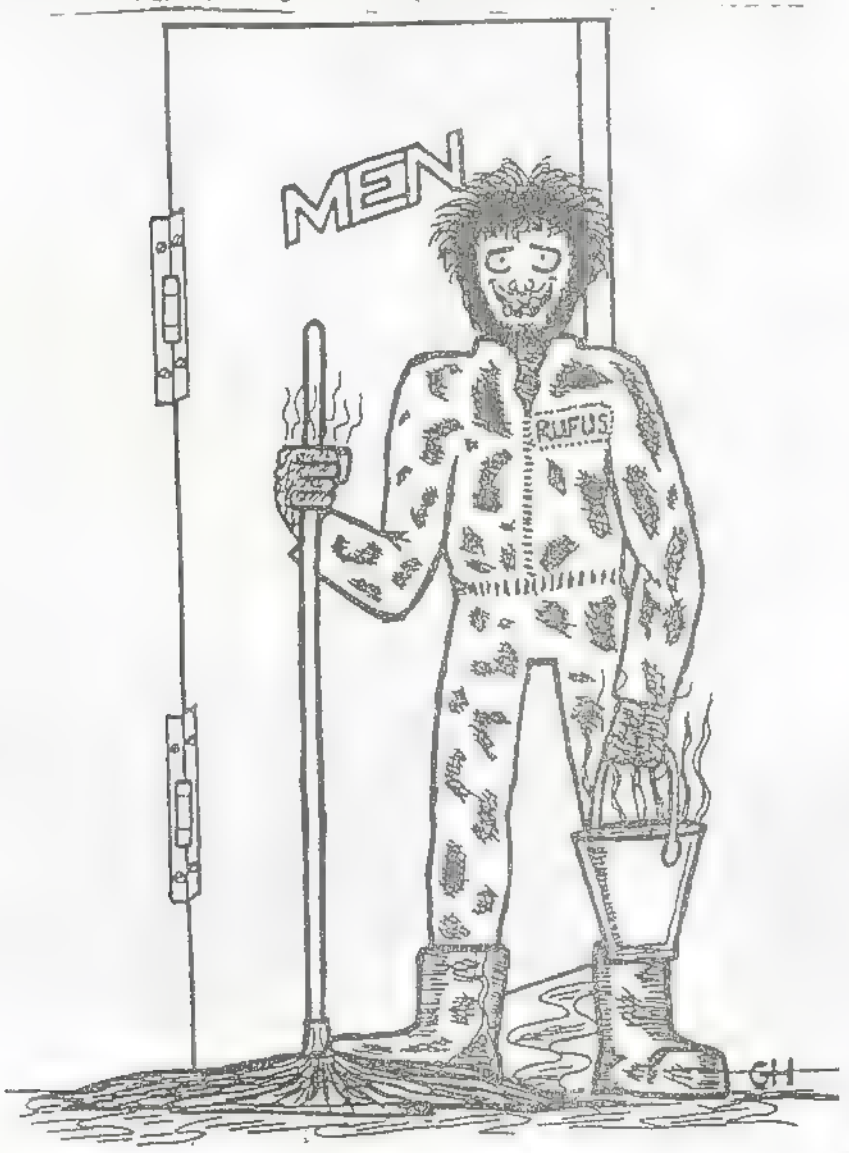
Today was a red-letter day for the proprietor of the HOTEL ATLANTIS - an eccentric-featured man, whose long pointed ears (the result of an unfortunate accident in a sawmill) had given rise to local rumour in his native country that he had emigrated in a huff at not being chosen for the part of MR. SPOCK in a new-fangled Amer--ican TV show. His name was ANGUS CLAYMORE, first son of the LAIRD OF CULLODEN. His facial likeness (apart from the ears) to the YOUNG PRETENDER had led to the LAIRD's gillies calling him 'BONNY PRINCE CLAYMORE'. As heir to the Lairdship, he had a sizeable allowance, much of which he had chosen to invest in the purchase of an island in the ATLANTIC upon which he built his paradisical hotel. As he stood on the balcony surveying the becalmed ocean under a splendid blue sky, he rehea--rsed his welcoming speech to the first of his customers, whose arrival was imminent. A large party comprising the DYSLEXICS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION of KNOWLEDGE had booked the entire establishment for its opening week of business at short notice &, ANGUS reflected happily, at exorbitant prices.

Even as he waited in silent contemplation, assorted craft wear bearing down on his sanctuary. However, their occupants were not the word-blind worthies he had been expecting. The largest vessel was approaching from the direction of SANTOS CLAWS. It was a stolen freighter crewed by a set of misanthropic mutants led by dyslexic enemy number one - MAGNETO. At last they had managed to get the would-be builder of the original DICK hotel wanne to sober up & tell them where the event was to be held instead.

At a similar distance, but from a different direction, moved the middle-sized ship on whose deck a bald cripple was scrubbing for his life. From this latter direction, but still a considerable way behind, a powerful speed--boat containing 5 purposeful X-MEN sped ever closer, on its way towards a memorable confrontation...

...to be continued...

IAN CLARK'84



Adult Censorship

Our country is governed by a system called 'DEMOCRACY' ie we elect as a collective whole, the Government which - for good or bad - is supposed to govern to the needs of its people & to be our talking voice to the rest of the country. With the currant state of the country we probably all have differing views on this. However, we do get the option to change our 'leaders' every 4 years & not wait until they reach their deathbeds.

Our country is also a land by which we are entitled to free speech - providing we don't outright slander or say something libelous. Without such freedoms, even clubzines as CEREBRO would not be allowed, since we are not 'controlled' in what we say or do.

How then, do self-elected bodies try to put their values on what we can & cannot see or read. How can they pressurise elected bodies to do their wishes. We've all seen the effects of this in AMERICA by the so-called 'MORAL MAJORITY' where its got to the state where even DONALD DUCK has been regarded as offensive. This, from a country which allows anybody to carry a handgun in the streets ??

Although I agree that there should be some censoring of some films & literature from the under-aged, as an adult I do believe I have the right to choose this for myself. Its a freedom I expect from a democratic society.

KNOCKABOUT COMICS have been on trial at the OLD BAILEY under the OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS ACT because magazines which they distribute mention drugs. I don't normally read undergrounds but I resent being told what I can & cannot buy! With legal bills to pay, a sponsored book 'KNOCKABOUT TRIAL SPECIAL' has been released. If you see it, buy it. Support your own freedom.

LAMPREY'84

The Untold Self-Righteous X-Men

This article concerns the events surrounding X-MEN ≠ 137 & the death of PHOENIX. But if that were all, it would not be worth reading & I certainly would not have spent any time writing it. Rather, I wish to deal with the characterisation of the X-MEN as portrayed in ≠ 137 & compare it with the version in PHOENIX: THE UNTOLD STORY. Despite being ostensibly the same people reacting to the same events, everyone involved – with the exception of PROFESSOR X – who is not really dealt with at any great length anyway – is totally unrecog--nisable. Furthermore, it is my contention that CHRIS CLAREMONT, who I'm told is responsible for the 'new' dialogue in PHOENIX, has done himself & the X-MEN a great disservice by allowing the second version to see the light of day.

Despite being an X-MEN addict, I had some doubts about buying PHOENIX: THE UNTOLD STORY. After all, by the time it came out I'd already seen examples of the 'untold' ending – both dialogue & artwork – in amongst other places, COMICS FEATURE ≠ 4 – JULY/AUGUST 1980. However, after leafing through it a few times I began to register something strange. The story didn't seem quite the same. In the end I purchased PHOENIX & compared it with ≠ 137, drew my own conclusions & waited for the whole PHOENIX/MARVEL GIRL/X-MEN debate to start up again. Since no one has done so, I've decided (with GEOFF's kind permission) to do it myself.

Perhaps by the time PHOENIX was published it was dismissed by everyone as merely another quick-buck gimmick for MARVEL, perhaps the overuse of PHOENIX' return/non-return or the ROGUE STORM episode. Perhaps just the sheer passage of time dulled the interest of its readers. Whatever the reason, no one has commented on the most effective demolition job CLAREMONT has managed to retroactively perform, both on the original story & the X-MEN, that any X-MEN hater could reason--ably wish for. Strong claims & ones I am prepared to back up.

In the 'original' version, as published in X-MEN ≠ 137, we are given a chance to examine the motivation of each X-MAN as they face up to the imperial trial/ ordeal after JEAN GREY is charged with the genocide of 5 billion intelligent beings. The result was an opportunity to show that this was NOT just another super-hero/super-villain slugfest in which, for a change, the good guys lost. The 'new' version accord--ing to PHOENIX totally reverses this perspective. Rather than the X-MEN asking themselves WHY they were going to fight (if we are) all we are shown is their worries about WHAT will happen to them when they fight. Both are legitimate & comprehensible express--ions of human thought in such a situation. The former, however, is much more enlightening & difficult to successfully achieve in comics & which once achieved should be left alone. It is with these differences that I now intend to deal, by comparing pages 10-16 of ≠ 137 with PHOENIX' pages 8-12.

The first X-MAN we come across is NIGHTCRAWLER. In ≠ 137 page 10 panel 1, he's shown exercising to try & get away from his doubts. After all, if the murders of DUCHAIA & BUCHENWALD should be neither forgiven nor forgotten, why should he & the others fight for PHOENIX who is equally guilty ?? The same page shows us ANGEL voicing similar misgivings.

...IS A WEE BIT OUT OF SHAPE.
YOU SOUND SAD.
DO I? PERHAPS IT'S BECAUSE I'VE DISCOVERED DOUBTS WHERE I DIDN'T EXPECT TO FIND ANY. IN A FEW HOURS, WE'RE SUPPOSED TO FIGHT FOR JEAN:-AND I DON'T KNOW YET IF I CAN. AND THAT, KURT... THAT HURTS.
...IS A WEE BIT OUT OF SHAPE
YOU SOUND SAD.
DO I? PERHAPS IT'S BECAUSE I'VE DISCOVERED, ALMOST TOO LATE, THAT BEING THE ANGEL IS A PART OF MY LIFE I DON'T WANT TO LOSE.
©MARVEL

Compare this with the same page in PHOENIX (page 8); there NIGHT--CRAWLER is concerned solely with being in top fighting trim for the next day while ANGEL is seen simply whining on about having played too much the boy billionaire lately, rather than the flying super-hero.

We're also given 2 versions of CYCLOPS. In ≠ 137, we find him admitting his own self-doubts about the forthcoming conflict & cursing his training as a leader since it allows him to see LILANDRA's point of view even if ultimately rejecting it, preferring to serve mercy over justice (page 15). In PHOENIX, we have SCOTT more concerned with analysing his place in the comparative social structures of the orphanage & the school & what this reveals about his psychological 'maturity' (page 11). It is left to MARVEL GIRL (remember her ?? The prospective bride-to-be, providing she survives trial-by combat!) to remind him that it is their love that matters above all else, whatever the outcome.

YOU'RE DRESSED AS MARVEL GIRL-- WHY?!
I'M NOT SURE--NOSTALGIA? PRIDE? I STARTED AS MARVEL GIRL, AND THAT'S HOW I'LL FINISH.
SCOTT, THERE'S ANOTHER DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THAT ORPHANAGE--I HATE WHAT THAT PLACE DID TO YOU--AND THE X-MEN, AN IMPORTANT DIFFERENCE.
HERE, YOU FOUND FRIENDS.
©MARVEL
I'M NOT SURE--NOSTALGIA? PRIDE? I STARTED AS MARVEL GIRL, AND THAT'S HOW I'LL FINISH.
SCOTT, AM I WORTH IT? I DESTROYED A WORLD--IN MY MIND, I CAN STILL HEAR THE SCREAMS OF THE DYING--AND IT FELT... GOOD! I DON'T WANT WANT THAT FEELING EVER AGAIN. AND YET--I DO!
I KNOW. BUT TO GIVE UP--

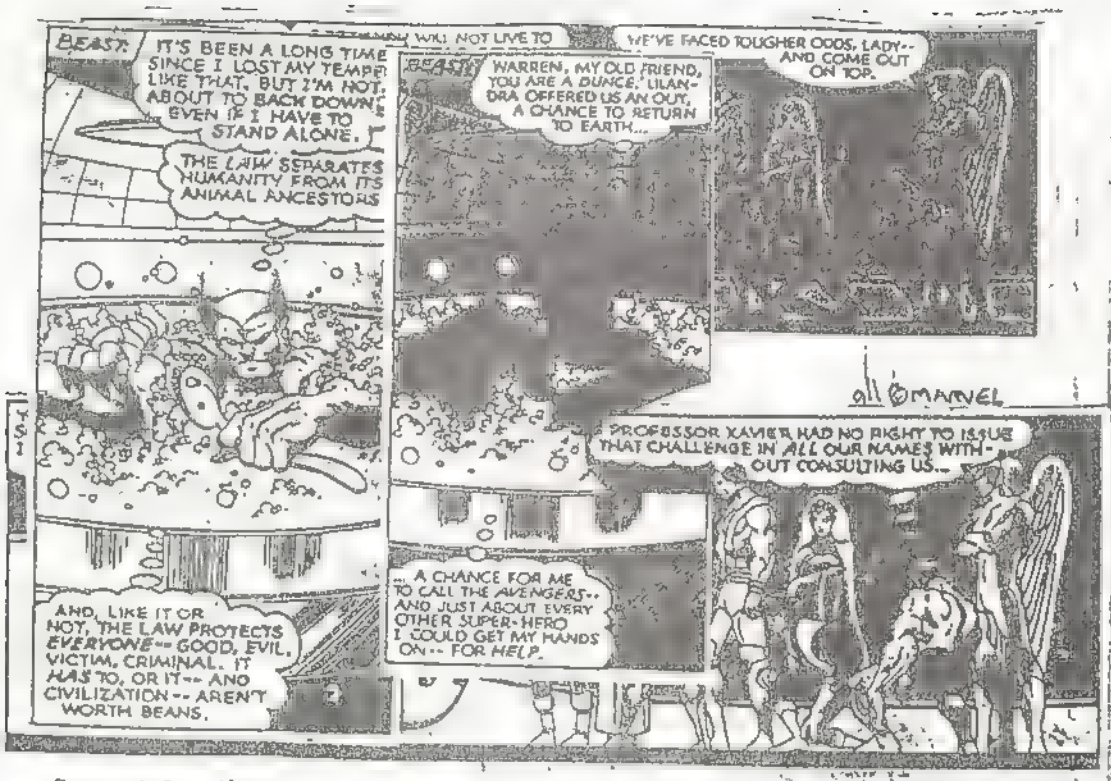
COLOSSUS, meanwhile, is alternatively comparing his possible fate with that of his brother & hoping he can, if necessary, die as heroically (PHOENIX page 10) or deciding that he is prepared to fight for the opportunity to cure JEAN GREY, which is more important than fighting to destroy PHOENIX (≠ 137 page 14).

STORM's musings are the least changed in PHOENIX, although the greater focus of ≠ 137 allows her to acknowledge the irony of a 'goddess of life' fighting to save the killer of billions (page 14).

The greatest &, to me, most distressing changes between the 2 accounts however came when examing the same events through the thoughts of WOLVERINE & the BEAST. In ≠ 137, WOLVERINE, who at one time was prepared to consider JEAN GREY as his future bride, acknow--ledges that despite being 2 different entities, it might be possible to separate her from PHOENIX. Nonetheless he is determined not to let her die by default. PHOENIX shows him 'bothered' by the thought of dying for purely selfish reasons – he has 'unfinished business' with MARIKO YASHIDA (≠ 137 page 11/PHOENIX page 9). To someone like LOGAN, PHOENIX even if he no longer 'loved' her would take prededence in all things, even 'unfinished business'.

The worst is yet to come. It is with the BEAST that the contrast between the 2 versions is most detrimental – both to him & to CLARE--MONT. ≠ 137 portrays the BEAST as the one most concerned with the principles behind the actions of LILANDRA & the X-MEN as the actions themselves. In just 2½ panels we are shown the basis of the beliefs he is willing to act upon, if necessary alone, & to the death. The BEAST in PHOENIX simply bemoans the fact that he will be unable to trick LILANDRA into allowing him to recruit the AVENGERS so that he will have to 'make-do' with his fellow X-MEN – an attitude of 'might makes right' that is eloquently damned in ≠ 137. In ≠ 137, the X-MEN truly emerge as heroes willing to fight, not just for the life of a comrade, but doing so after given consideration into the ethics involved, something particularly true of the BEAST, who for a change is shown to be something more than simply a blue-furred buffoon with an occasional liking for things other than treble-dating or bouncing around as leader of a 'proper' super-hero group.

...BUT IT DID BUY US TIME TO CONSIDER OUR ALTERNA--TIVES... WHETHER WE WANT TO FIGHT FOR HER.
HOW CAN WE LET ONE OF OUR OWN BE CONDEMNED WITHOUT A FAIR TRIAL--OR ANY TRIAL AT ALL?
I THOUGHT YOU KNEW THE X-MEN BETTER THAN THAT, LILANDRA.
WE SHALL SEE, ANGEL.
NEITHER YOU NOR THE BEAST ARE X-MEN ANY LONGER. THIS IS NOT YOUR FIGHT. YOU ARE FREE TO GO, IF YOU WISH
WELL, GEE, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, LIL, I DID LEAVE SOME COOKIES BAKING IN THE OVEN.
BE SEEING YOU--ULLP!
WE'LL BOTH STAY.
EASY, BEAST:-
©MARVEL


BEAST: IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I LOST MY TEMPER LIKE THAT. BUT I'M NOT ABOUT TO BACK DOWN, EVEN IF I HAVE TO STAND ALONE.
THE LAW SEPARATES HUMANITY FROM ITS ANIMAL ANCESTORS
AND, LIKE IT OR NOT, THE LAW PROTECTS EVERYONE -- GOOD, EVIL, VICTIM, CRIMINAL. IT HAS TO, OR IT -- AND CIVILIZATION -- AREN'T WORTH BEANS.
WILL NOT LIVE TO
BEAST: WARREN, MY OLD FRIEND, YOU ARE A DUNCE. ULANDRA OFFERED US AN OUT, A CHANCE TO RETURN TO EARTH...
WE'VE FACED TOUGHER ODDS, LADY -- AND COME OUT ON TOP.
... A CHANCE FOR ME TO CALL THE AVENGERS -- AND JUST ABOUT EVERY OTHER SUPER-HERO I COULD GET MY HANDS ON -- FOR HELP.
PROFESSOR XAVIER HAD NO RIGHT TO ISSUE THAT CHALLENGE IN ALL OUR NAMES WITHOUT CONSULTING US...
all ©MARVEL

Separately, these changes are depressing enough. Collectively, they destroy the sympathy & sadness that the death of PHOENIX created & leave the X-MEN & everyone associated with them that much diminished. In PHOENIX, the X-MEN are shown as a group of self-centred unreliable (what would have happened if ANGEL & BEAST had left & had been unable to gain the necessary help) petulant school-children-cum-gang: 'The Family that slays together, stays together'.

The few occasions where the opportunity is taken to change & excise confus--ing or superfluous dialogue (for instance, the exact duties of the KREE/SKRULL observes - ≠ 137 pages 8 & 31/PHOENIX pages 6 & 23; the WATCHER - ≠ 137 page 29/PHOENIX page 21; STORM's encounter with GLADIATOR - ≠ 137 page 23/PHOENIX page 17) in no way make up for what has been done to some of my favourite characters at the hands of their own mentor & vitual creator. Whilst MARVEL may have felt that changed dialogue was a necessity to augment the 'new' ending & make it more marketable, the end result was 'unfortunate' to put it mildly. In ≠ 137, we are shown just how much the X-MEN care for one another, despite the occasional disagreements they are as much a family as the FANTASTIC FOUR. In PHOENIX, all we see are a group of individual fighters concerned solely with how the battle tomorrow will concern THEM, THEIR worries & THEIR chances of survival in battle.

One makes an adequate comic book story. The other gave us something much rarer - a story that has depth ' philosophical content that revealed the core personalities of the protagonists & still managed to tell its tale without faltering.

I hope this sets you thinking (& writing). Not only about the particular (comics) issues involved, but also about the wider implication of self-righteous actions being held up as an example on what is still probably the largest selling title in comics today. This is something that does not deserve to be ignored.

DONALD THOMPSON'84

MEANWHILE, ON THE FLAGSHIP'S TRANSPORTER DECK...
I JUST WANT TO TELL YOU THAT I'M FIGHTING FOR JEAN. I WON'T ASK ANY OF YOU TO JOIN ME -- I HAVEN'T THE RIGHT -- AND I WON'T THINK ANY THE LESS OF YOU IF YOU DECIDE NOT TO.
SCOTT, WE, uh, TALKED THIS OUT AMONGST OURSELVES BEFORE YOU GOT HERE. WE'RE ALL AGREED. WE'RE WITH YOU AND JEAN, TO THE END!
THANKS, WARREN. TH-THANKS, ALL OF YOU.
©MARVEL
AND, ON THAT SPACECRAFT'S TRANSPORTER DECK...
I WISH YOU LUCK, GLADIATOR. I'D LIKE TO THINK THAT, UNDER OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES, WE MIGHT HAVE BEEN FRIENDS. THERE'S SO MUCH WE COULD LEARN FROM YOU -- YOUR PEOPLE -- FIGHTING LIKE THIS SEEMS SO STUPID..
..YET FIGHT WE MUST. I WISH YOU LUCK AS WELL, CYCLOPS.
I HAVE RARELY FACED SO HONORABLE A FOE.
©MARVEL

With the exception of the end sequence, this is the only other place where art, as well as dialogue has been changed. In ≠ 137, the X-MEN have come to a CONSIDERED opinion to back up CYCLOPS & JEAN, while in PHOENIX, the two sides seem to exchange traditional courtesies. Once again, the depth engendered by one is lost in the other. D.T.'84

PSI WARS

War is always a serious business for any nation. The cost alone in resources & men's lives is tremendous. But, if you found a superior weapon which gives you the advantage over your neighbouring nation, do you use it ??

ESPers in the hands of the military would give them that advantage. The costs are far less than the sophisticated equipment & less likely to go wrong.

So, how do the military go about collec--ting these ESPers ? Well, many are already in the hands of scientists who are trying to work out the mechanics of the mind. Others are known to the police - having helped out during murder hunts or found missing people. Others still have gone into business for themselves as seers & clairv--oyants. They would have a good collection of experienced minds to use.

Now, lets say this group is made up of a precog (someone who can perceive the future), a telepath, a telekinetic & a clairvoyant (or remote-viewer - someone who can perceive a view from afar without using any of the regular 5 senses) & examine their use in a wartime situation.

The telepath as a spy who can extract information from the opposite regime's generals & convey it to his own people. By mental domination he could also persuade the leader of the opposite nation to back down on defence or sue for peace - or even to soften him up & make ready for an all--out invasion by the telepath's own army.

Telekinetics tend not to shift anything greater than their own body weight. However, this miniscule control can redirect the guidance controls of missiles & aircraft & even on the battlefield, making guns & tanks totally inoperative.

The clairvoyant would replace spy satellites as they can see any point on earth abling them to pinpoint all military installations, tracing key personal & conceivably, read secret documentation.

The precog's role seems confusing since predicting troop movements & ensuring his/her own nation's troops are there to meet the onslaught could so easily fall apart if an alternative decision is made at the last moment. In terms of strategy though the precog should not be under-estimated.

But lets not forget the good side of people, which many feel that they have no obligation to protect their nation & look upon humanity as a whole being. Anyone with these feelings would either offer their services, remain in obscurity voluntary or offer for monetary/power gain. It is in their interest that no war should come about.

In business, a precog or telepath is a big asset to predict stock movement. Telepaths are ideal for communicating directly to people - especially when they can over-ride any local language difficulties & are likely to be recognised as expert witnesses. I can see telekinetics making ideal space engineers & clairvoyants have the potential for astral sights-seeing.

Should the human race develop a class of ESPers although the military applications are great, so too, are the possible benefits - a list which beggars description. It would be unlikely that any government could force them to do anything so it would be upto the individual ESPer to act as the peace makers than the warmongers.

PETER J. ALTOFT'84

MORALLY *Speaking....*

First off, let me say that I agree with the majority of what SEAN ROBERTS said in his article in # 19, but feel that he grossly over-simplified an immensely complex issue. Its often far too easy to dilute a definition & form generalisations. I'm not too happy with his implication of brain-washing through life's experiences. OK, to a certain extent we live & learn obviously, but different people respond in different ways to the same stimuli. I've a friend who used to blanch if he cut himself & is now studying surgery at EDINBURGH, cutting up cadavers after lunch; so I can't agree that people retain all the behaviour patterns they pick up when children.

Taking it that the majority of the Club members are over 10, I agree that children of that age are 'waxen tablets', but they also suffer from over-protection. Isolation from certain stimuli does not defend them against it. You defend against disease by innoculating with a small dose of the infection & letting the body learn how to fight it. Surely, informed intelligence is better than secluded ignorance - hence warning about 'nice men with bags of sweets'. This, too, can be overdone as well, to the point where the child becomes withdrawn. Its a terrifying fine balance & in truth all cases should be examined individually.

Sure, SPIDER-MAN is an anachist, like any other have-a-go-hero. But he's a responsible anachist with his own sense of morality & an unbroken code - more than most politicians. What is morality ?? I defy anyone to define it without basing their decision on tribal taboos & the narrow mindedness associated with these mental bonds.

As for the outraged religion but. Its hardly surprising that a large proportion of people reject the standard ideas of religion & all the mumbo-jumbo that goes with it with priests campaigning for DIY burials for 'non-church goes'. (Actually, I thought a church was a group of people getting together, but if he wants to define it as a pile of bricks, who am I to argue ?) Telling people they can't get married because they can't have sex then changing their minds when they get a bad press about it. Up against this bunch of hypocritic conmen, you have the slightly more tenable fictional heroes of TV & fantasy. Heroes that younger people can easily relate to & idolise even though they are, in the main, totally unrealistic. How can anyone take the present religious set-up seriously when the major Christian religions can't decide amongst themselves what's right & what's wrong, let alone getting together with the other innumerable religions that exist - some longer than the Christians. Look at every major atrocity committed by man - & almost all have been committed in the name of God. Whether it be your God, my God or any--one else's God. Personally, I thought there was only one - does it really matter what you call him ?? Remem--ber, even HITLER said the HOLOCAUST was because the JEWS had killed CHRIST.

Morality is one hell of a complex topic & most of us have little or no facts to back up our personal beliefs. What kind of caring God would create all the disease, famine & rot that's in our world. OK, some may say that its in our hands to protect & help our fellow man, but what about the so-called 'acts of God' - the natural disasters causing death & agony ?? What kind of diseased mind conceived senility & incontinence. God moves in mysterious ways, but so does MAX WALL & few people deify him.

Lets face it, everyone likes to see the bad guy get what's coming to him because in the screwed-up society in which we live, chances are that if you did deck someone who asked for it you'd be put away for 6 months. If anything, TV shows & the pulp media, including comics, act as an escape valve & a subco--nscious education. Seeing the violent events & their outcomes is just as likely to help stop people doing the same thing themselves, as it is to entice copy-cat behaviour. As I've said, it affects different people in different ways. Hell, I get affected diff--erently by the SAME things depending upon what kind of mood I'm in. The proof is that not everyone is a psycho, like we should be, if we believed the scare merchants.

Maybe the bad guy doesn't wear a red lined cap & twisted tash perched on a smirking smile, like SEAN said, but at least having a 'standard bad guy' character will teach the kids that not all people are 'nice guys'. Better some knowledge & realization of good & evil than none - even in a world that's mostly grey. Today, its becoming very trendy to see what things are doing harm to us & are generally unhealthy. Just look at the STATES & all the campaigns against salt, sugar, etc.. You name it & there'll be some nut somewhere saying how bad it is for you. Infact, you could probably statistically prove that its far healthier to sit in a corner, starve to death & rot quietly than it is to attempt to survive in the realworld.

It is probably very square & boring to suggest it, but maybe if the parents of younger children talked to them more about the things they read & see, it may help them to benefit from, as opposed to idolising the characters & situations. I don't know.

If a parent goes along the bottom shelf picking up every other magazine then gives them to little JOE to keep him quiet, how can they complain about the effect the material has on him? The parent knows JOE & hence should know what is liable to affect their child. How the parent chooses to protect their child from the material is surely upto them, either by isolation or discussion after. That is part of a parent's job & its no good blaming the industry or the creator. The comics field is so wide & diverse that many people that ought to know what's going on haven't the faintest idea. That's their problem. I feel that censorship is in general a bad thing where mature people are concenned, but comics today range in material so much that on occasion it is necessary for younger readers. Until you can pick your own material, someone has to do it for you. Maybe the waxen slate idea follows & what type of person you become depends upon what you read & see at an early age. Remember, I only said MAYBE.

Its easy to mock the attempts to produce 'meaningful material with a message' such as the TITANS drug issue, but being used to the rest of the comics world, we may find this kind of thing hard to accept. Being that much older & staid in our ways, how do we really know what effect this kind of material will have on the waxen 10 year olds its aimed at. To them, I'm told, the characters are real people to be looked up to, which in turn means that the narrative speeches that we find unimagin--ative & ridiculous suddenly become true life confessions by an older person who ought to be listened to. So, maybe the desired effect will be impressed upon the tablet. The entire subject of morals & censorship for different age groups raises so many diffe--ring & opposing questions that I'm in 2 minds about everything. God knows what the answer is. Or, at least, I hope he does.

MARTIN FISHER'P4

Fiction Ain't Reality

Before I start, I would just like to ask why MR. ROBERTS, if he cares so much about chauvinism, violence, crime, sacrilege, equality & the like, refers to children as young goats or antelopes in his title ??

Basically - very basically - I agree with MR. ROBERTS' article, yet I'm not totally sure what he is trying to say. I mean, one can't escape the fact that life can be miserable, violent, dangerous & 'bad'. Every--one knows that. Not letting young people know about this - hiding it all away from them in a sheltered upbringing will lead to big-time problems in an open environment such as school, college or work. I mean, is it up to parents to decide what their sons & daughters should & shouldn't read ??

Its all very well to go on about the 'bad' points of comics, but that's like seeing only the faults in people & not their good points. Totally negative.

As I say though, I can't deny that comics can be violent, but prejudice they aren't. Or are they ? OK, on occasions eg INVISIBLE GIRL is pushed back onto the sidelines but that's only because of REED, JOHNNY & BEN's personalities. They're all pretty much chival--rous & old-fashioned, moreso than say WOLVERINE would be.

Infact, comics are one of the very few forms of entertainment which has liberated women, ethnic minorities & young people in a positive way. Sure, there's an amount of stereo-typing but then so are most forms of entertainment, especially TV.

MR. ROBERTS speaks of comics as having little in common with reality. Comics have dealt with subjects such as murder, rape, drugs, violence, crime, war, segregation, marriage, divorce, pregnancy, miscarriage, tramps, philosophy, progress of humanity - the list is endless. And they are all to do with the real world.

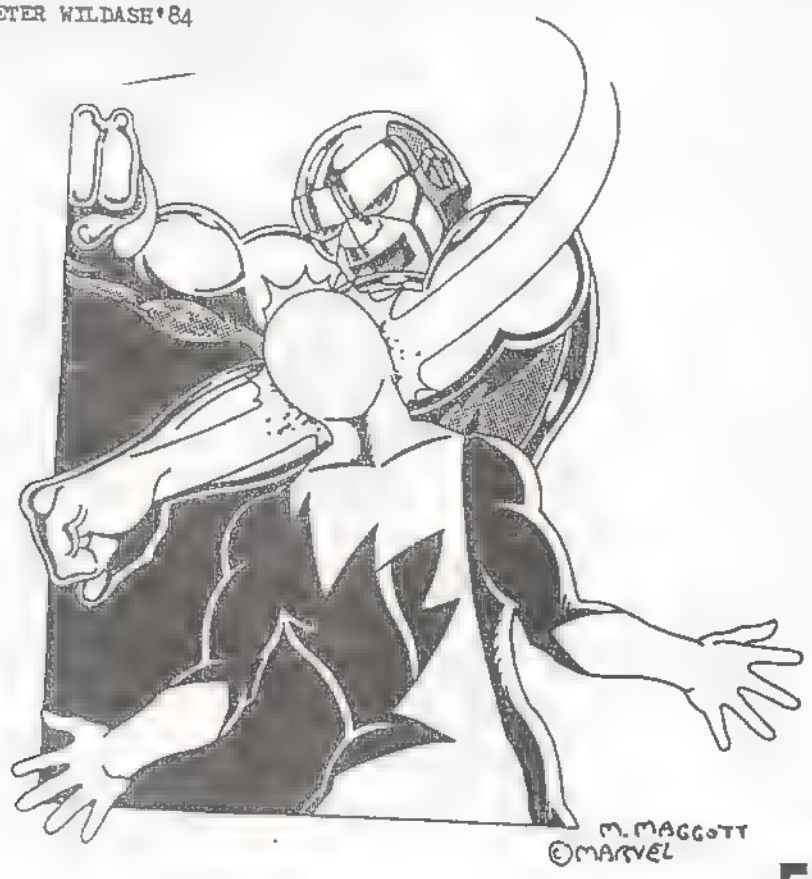
I wouldn't deny that young people, whatever age, aren't influenced at all by any of this, but it is everywhere as MR. ROBERTS explained - on TV, radio, in books, magazines & in music.

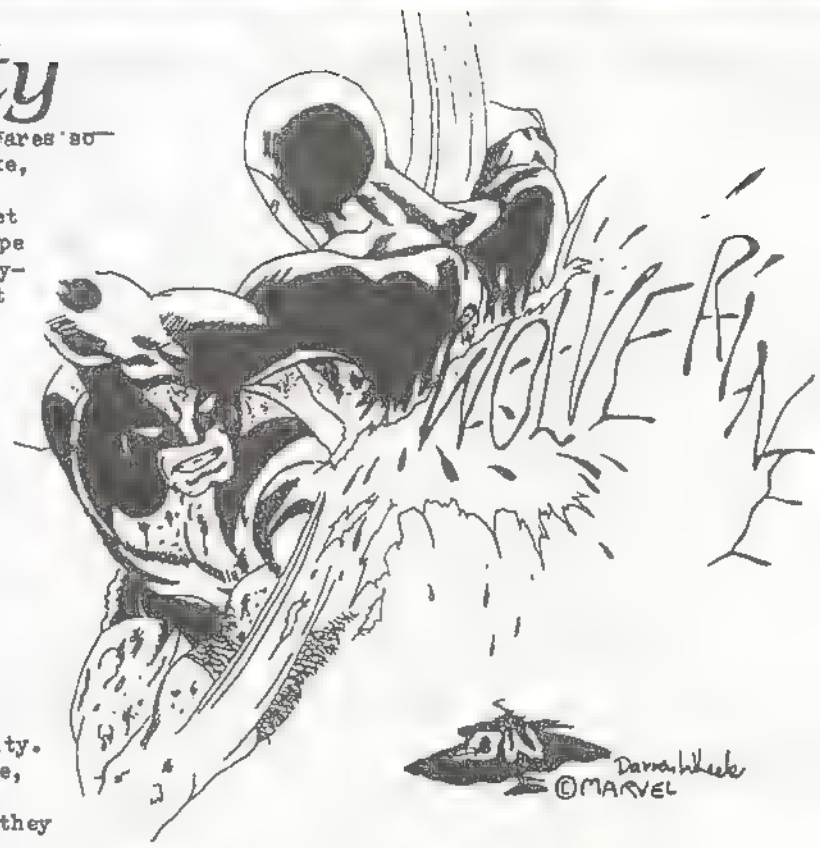
The main point about any form of literature - totally written, semi-illustrated or totally illustrated - is its message. Its moral. The moral is more important than its illustrations. On the one hand, MR. ROBERTS is implying that portraying violence as a part of reality is wrong as is port--raying totally good heroes & totally bad villains. Then he says that reading comics can lead to children 'paying little attention to the real world' anyway! I would argue that violence, however much we abhor it, IS a part of the real world & so the reader may relate to ot. The moral is good over evil. Right over wrong. What Christian follower of any faith would deny these fundamental 'rules' ?? OK, there are big grey areas which are dealt with in comics that not everyone is sure about but to push them aside & label them 'potentially disruptive for children' would do no real good.

Rather than 'not let' our children read such comics, I think we should let them read what they like, but stressing the fact that although the subjects covered in comics may happen, they are just stories & the charac--ters are fictional (shown by the impossible totally good & totally bad characters) on the most part & that super-heroes can't really exist & things like muggings & murder don't happen as often in comics (relatively).

Perhaps then, parents should encourage more activity - sports, clubs & things so that there is 'attention paid to the real world'. So really, rather than spend sleepless nights worrying what is right & what isn't for our children, we should pay more attention to them ourselves. Encourage free-thinking, talking & discussing things openly rather than shoving them aside.

PETER WILDASH'84





Super-Fantasies

Its fair to say that most of us at one time or another have fantasized about having super-powers. Ask yourself truthfully, hasn't there been an occasion when you clenched your fist & said, 'SNIKT!' under your breath ??

This doesn't make us all homicidal maniacs. I'm exaggerating of course, but you get my meaning ?? I think worrying about comics having ill-effects on children is not really crediting them with much upstairs (pardon the term!). I think most kids can tell the difference between fact & fantasy fairly early, unlike STEPHEN PERRY (a frog is a frog - MARVEL COMICS : BIZARRE ADVENTURES # 31).

Also, there is no physical real pain involved in SPIDEY punching out a villain & very little fear that the conviction to attach kitchen knives to the backs of our hands & go slice a few miscreants up can come from reading too much SPIDER-MAN. These are some cases but most involves more far-reaching influences than those mentioned. Which sounds more likely?? 'I became a vigilante because the PUNISHER inspired me!' OR 'They just shot my family!' The moral code in modern comics is well-laid out & more than anything, over-used. How many times have you heard 'I won't kill him because I will be no better than him!' type stuff ?? Comics nowadays seldom have black & white situations & attitudes, though we my suffer stereo-type characters. The heroes & heroines of today try to rationalise & justify their powers & actions. Take for example, COLOSSUS' trauma after killing MUTANT X. The confrontat--ion between STORM & WOLVERINE in X-MEN # 142. The conversation of WOLVERINE & NIGHTCRAWLER's in # 140. Infact, just take WOLVERINE full stop!

So, to the question would I let kids read comics ?? Yes. There is no more exciting & highly communicative medium around.

NEAL BURTON'84

AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**

'VOX STELLARUM' FANZINE REQUIRES CONTRIBUTIONS FOR FRP SPECIAL: ART, SCENARIOS, REVIEWS, ARTICLES, ETC ALL NEEDED. CONTACT: DAVID BARNETT, 15 WESTWOOD TERRACE, LOWER INCE, WIGAN, LANCS WN3 4ND.

ADAD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD

WANTED: Video recording of 'THE 5 FACES OF DR WHO' season plus 'THE CURSE OF PELADON' on the VHS system. If you have these, contact me: GREG HILL, 'WEST WAYS', NEW ROAD, PENGAM, BLACKWOOD, GWENT NP2 1QZ

AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD

GOVERNMENT HEALTH WARNING

Every once in a while, the thorny problem of whether or not comics are harmful raises its ugly head. This time it was argued by the redoubtable SEAN ROBERTS (WOULD YOU LET YOUR KIDS READ TODAY'S COMICS for those with short memories). On this occasion, the judge--ment fell fairly & squarely against comics. A conclusion I vehemently disagree with.

That super-heroes are violent is undeniable, but what is the alternative ?? The essence of drama (& comics are similar to drama in this respect) is conflict & in the adventure genre it is almost inevitable that this will manifest itself in physical violence. SEAN objects on the one hand to the violence inherent in the genre (& also, in passing, on AMERICAN TV) & to a lack of realism in depicting it on the other. In the past, the vast majority of anti-comics protests have been concerned with precisely the fact that comics were TOO violent. Their arguement was that the graphic portrayal of violence somehow 'warped' the child's mind so that such violence would be perceived as normal.

In a recent interview, ALAN MOORE talked at some length on his reasoning behind the violence of MARVELMAN. Like SEAN, he felt that comics gave a false impression of conflict - the result being the bloody battle between MARVELMAN & JOHNNY BATES (& MARVELMAN's subsequent convalescence - something practically without precident in comics). Violence can be depicted realistically. That it rarely is is due more to the ineptitude of the majority of comic writers (COLOSSUS is skewered through the heart with an enormous iron girder - in but a few issues he is back to normal).

SEAN asserts that far from being a simple case of Good versus Evil, super-hero battles are concerned with absolutes. I doubt this is the case, that the creators do not have this in mind & that the average comic reader will not perceive the battle as thus - not even on a subliminal level. Far from being clear-cut, the average MARVEL villain must (following the STAN LEE GUIDE TO CHARACTERIS--ATION) have troubles of his own, often resulting in the character of the anti-hero (typified by the SUB-MARINER). Very often, the villain will have been shown to have understandable motivation for his actions. MAGNETO operates under a set of morals different to our own, but given his (for want of a better phrase) manic-self-persecution complex his actions are, if not commendable, at the very least understandable.

Therefore, it cannot be claimed that all comics present wholly unrealistic representations of criminals. It should be noted also that the COMICS CODE stipulates that in all cases crime should be shown to be undesirable & if, as SEAN asserts, criminals are shown as shady, unshaven undesirables then who is to say comics are not (as the CODE hopes) deterring our youth from the path of crime ?? That SPIDER-MAN shows anarchistic tendencies is irrefut--able. What, however, is debatable is whether or not this has any substantial influence on the reader. The code assumes that showing crime to be desirable could lead the reader astray. Could SPIDER-MAN convert the young of our country to the cause of anarchy ??

It would take an extremely strict censor to ban HUCKLEBERRY FINN on the grounds of anarchist influence - yet this character exhibits all the anarchist tendencies that SPIDER-MAN does. A more worrying strip (if any strip could be thought of as 'worrying') is V FOR VENDETTA - a self-avowed anarchistic piece that evinces sympathy for a mentally unsound protag--onist. Yet for all its powers of enticement, it would of itself convince no normal person of the validity of anarchy.

That point is really the crux of the censorship debate: Whether or not comics have a notable influence. It has long been accepted that television (& by implication, the video) has been the most influential medium & this is doubly the case where children are concerned. When compared to the moving image, comic books cannot hope to be regarded as anything else but fantasy.

The most famous treatise on comics - SEDUCTION OF THE INNOCENT by DR. FREDERIC WERTHAM - contended that crime comics (to WERTHAM, any comic other than funny animals was a crime comic) were greatly harmful to children. That many comics of the day were excessively violent & in questionable taste is irrefutable. His findings on the other hand, were. He could produce no tangiable evidence to support his theory yet, his is a view that has persisted to this day. Much of the problem stems from adults' misunderstanding the child's capacity to correctly assess the information supplied to him. As young children we were probably all scared by a monster in DOCTOR WHO, yet none of us would pretend to be mentally scarred by the experience; though many is the time an adult has suggested that such might occur. As it is true of DOCTOR WHO, it is true of comics & its time we all stopped feeling guilty & just enjoyed the escapism comics can offer.

As for harming our education. I go to university & have read comics for as long as I can remember.
How about you, SEAN ??

DAVE ROACH'84

BETWIXT & BETWEEN

Someone once said a critic is an idealist turned cynic. In many cases; its just that. There do exist people who seem to delight in traring apart every--thing. Sometimes this is constructive. Sometimes not. Occasionally, I get mad at people who refuse to enjoy a play, novel or film to admit they just plain LIKED it. They dance into the trap of being 'worldly-wise' - frightened of admitting the work touched a part of them.

There is no wonder any more. No delight in some--thing because it IS. I can criticise with the best of 'em. But I can also step back & instead of analy--sing, add the experience to the sum of my experiences. A wonderful performance or work is a high - a magical personal chord. Examine it too closely & it breaks.

On the other hand, there is the point of view that some people moan about little details because they detract from the whole & perhaps prevent it from becoming what it should be. If an omission or mistake in continuity jars too much it cracks the illusion. An example off the top of my head is STAR TREK - THE MOTION PICTURE. There were plot holes in that film large enough to pilot a starship through & the knowledge of them brought the film down to a disappointing commercial farce. I still liked it but it could have been so much better.

What I'm getting at is that although some people criticise for criticism's sake, others carp about details because they know if someone had taken a little more care & thought, those mistakes would not be there to criticise. And without them, the whole product would have been so much better.

If this sounds like balancing on a wire & examining 2 sides of a coin, I make no apologies. Criticism, like everything, has both good & bad points. In the end, maybe we should stop taking ourselves too seriously & take everything as it comes. Warts an'all.

LORRAINE GOODISON'84

Vampires

The vampire of myth & legend is a person whose life was wicked & who, after 'death' lives on to prey on others by sucking their blood, so sustaining his or her unfatural existance. The source of the legend is lost in time. No one can say how or where it begun, though it is common to most countries & races which have written languages & known histories. In Eastern Europe, the term 'NOSFERATU' was used to denote the vampire. In other countries & other times, it had a wide variety of names. But, whatever the term used it meant only one thing to people of an earlier simpler age:The Undead-Dead!

The vampire was impotent & lifeless between the hours of sunrise & sunset,but after dusk would be free to rise from its coffin or burial place & seek out its prey. Together with its supernatural powers went other attributes: The ability to change itself into a wolf, mist, rat, insect or bat - the latter being the particularly useful form in which to gain entrance to bedrooms at night, the power to mesmerise its victims until its sharp fangs had done their work & its imperviousness to the ills that best mankind.

Providing it could satisfy its unnatural thirst, the vampire had the power to prolong its life for centuries, remaining eternally young. It could only be destroyed by a silver bullet or by a stake - traditionally aspen or hawthorn- driven through the heart, after which it would dissolve into unspeakable corruption & finally dust within a short space of time. Those of its victims who were not delivered by the crucifix & holy water were doomed themselves to become vampires in return & so the plague spread.

The vampire had some limitations, it is true. Apart from vulnerability to silver bullets or stakes, it could be beheaded, feared fire, could not cross water & if wolfsbane or garlic were placed outside the potential victim's window or round the bed it would not be able to pass. Even to get that far, vampires have to be invited into any private house--hold - usually by mesmerising its victims to do so.

Vampires boast particular features. Their ears may be pointed, They might be unnaturally lean bodied with a white face & have piercing eyes. Their fingernails are long & sharp. Their breath stank. Most obvious, their long sharp pointed teeth. The crucifix would burn their skin if placed upon it. Vampires cast no reflection in mirrors (an aspect that film & stage have made great play with over the past 40 years) nor any shadow. They also dread crossing running water.

The legends were embellished further by facts of natural history - notably the nasty habits of the vampire bat of SOUTH AMERICA & other tropical countries. This is the only known creature which carries rabies without itself falling victim. Strictly speaking it does not attack people but does draw blood from cattle. A more recently discovered horror is the vampire moth - the Calyptra-eustrigate - of MALAYA, which beahaves in a similar manner to the bats. Intead of teeth, however, its proboscis is like two tiny saws to penetrate the victim's skin. There is even a vampire cat - a potent symbol in Japanese legend - which was often evoked in medieval folktales.

The mystic vampire was to come to terrifying life in the persons of a number of mercifully rare individuals who, in an age not noted for its gentleness, performed deeds which sent a shock of horror around the civilized world.

Before ending this article, I give my thanks to BRAM STOKER, BASIL COPPER, COUNT VLAD THE IMPALER & COUNTESS ELIZABETH BATHORY. Thanks.

JAMES GREY'83

ADAD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**
X-MEN FAN CLUB MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE : THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE MY AUCTION BID FORMS HAVE ONE WEEK EXTRA PAST THE JULY 7th DEADLINE TO SEND IN THEIR BIDS PROVIDING THEY QUOTE THEIR CLUB MEMBERSHIP NUMBER. Also, the DEADLINE for the FANZINE FAN FAVOURITES AWARDS for 1984 is the 1st AUGUST 1984. Send bids &/or votes to: DICK DOMAR, 9 HIGHLANDS RD,WOLVERHAMPTON
AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**
WANTED: Im interested in swapping ideas with anyone who has a DRAGON 32 computer. Infact, any computer. Write to: ANDY FOXWELL, 10 KINGS ARBOUR, RINGWAY, SOUTHALL, MIDDLESEX UB2 5TA
ADAD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**
WANTED: For the practice of cross-checking references, would any member who has a collection of the ODHAMS' POWER COMICS, especially POW, WHAM & SMASH please write to: IAN CLARK, 11 GREENDYKES ROAD, DUNDEE, SCOTLAND DD4 7ND
AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**
WANTED: I'm after X-MEN # 121 & 122 or U.K. reprint of same. Also CEREBRO issues #= 1-4, 6 & 9. All in good condition. Write with price quotes to: KEVIN RIDLEY, 26 FAIRHOLME ROAD, BENWELL, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE NE4 8AT.
ADAD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**

BLUE SIDE OF THE MOON - CONTINUED FROM PAGE:

Back with CYCLOPS, NIGHTCRAWLER, SMASHER & WARSTAR. CYCLOPS began a typical hero speech in an attempt to try & stop further combat :'Before another blow is struck by either team, I ask you, the IMPERIAL GUARD to cease fighting the X-MEN now & forever. You know us from the past to support truth & justice & that is why we will not let you do as you please with JEAN GREY. We do not condone the things that she did as DARK PHOENIX, but things went wrong which we can now control if you will only let us. JEAN GREY is the greatest hope for the universe if she lives. If she dies, her link with the M'KRAAN crystal will end & in time the power that binds it will go. You are now talking about the end of the Universe! The X-MEN will not give up their fight for JEAN GREY even if it means my death or their own. I now ask you to consider your next actions very carefully.'

At that point, GLADIATOR (who had not heard CYCLOPS' noble sppech) sent a telepathic command to WARSTAR via ORACLE. Basically, it read : 'Never mind the blackmail - terminate CYCLOPS!'

This, WARSTAR did automatically. His hand had been round CYCLOPS' head, so it was only the work of a second to crush it. CYCLOPS WAS DEAD!

JEAN's team had been heading towards the other X-MEN to give some help. JEAN had been trailing behind for her own reasons when CYCLOPS died. The PHOENIX force rose once more to the surface & transformed her. Letting loose a pyrotechnic light-burst that illuminated half the moon, PHOENIX threw up a force shield around herself, ready for whatever would now follow.

ROBERT NOTT'84

ADAD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**
WANTED: I am after light bulbs. The kind that go into keyring lights of 1.2 volts. If you have a stockist near you, would you contact me at the editorial address: GEOFF LAMPREY, 74 GLOUCESTER ROAD, BRIDGWATER, SOMERSET TA6 6EA
AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**
FOR SALE: On a first, first serve basis in good to nm cond--ition & sent in comic bags: DAREDEVIL # 196 @25p, JACK OF HEARTS # 4 @ 30p; HERCULES # 2(2nd series) @30p; FANTASTIC FOUR GS # 2 @ £1; E-MAN # 2 & 3 (X-men pardoy) @ 30p each; ALIEN LEGION # 1 @ 80p; CEREBUS # 57 @ 65p; STARSLAYER # 12 @ 45p. Include 20p for p&p & send to: SEAN ROBERTS, GLENVILL, CEFN MAWR WOOD, MONSWOOD, USK, GWENT.
ADAD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**

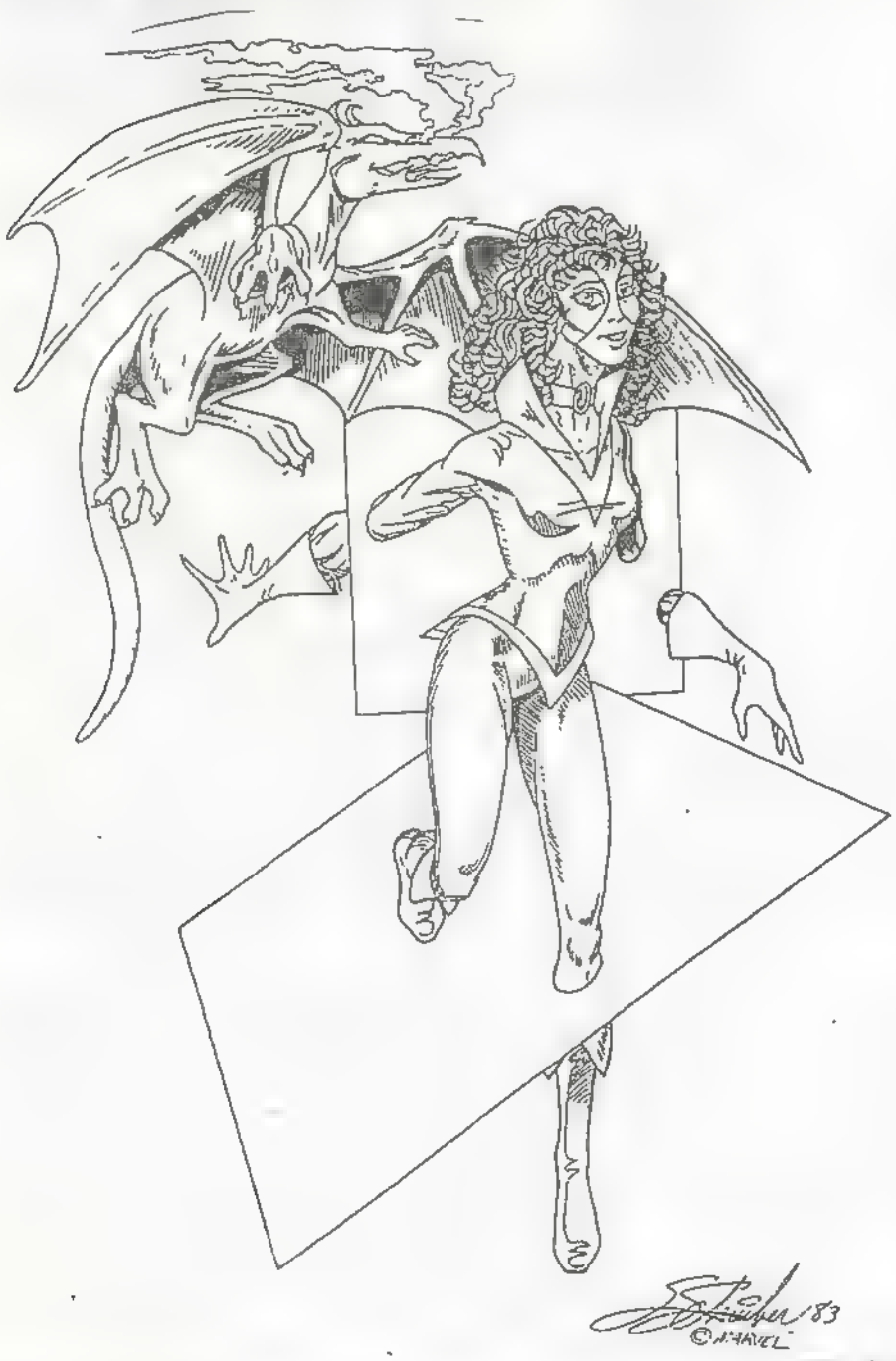
Allegorical X-Men

When you next pick up your copy of X-MEN # 137, do this: Whenever the name CHARLES XAVIER appears read over it the name 'MERLIN'. Do likewise for the name CYCLOPS reading over it the name 'ARTHUR'; & for WOLVERINE read 'LANCELOT'. Then substitute the 'BLUE ZONE' setting for that of a mythical BRITAIN & you have set the stage for 'LE MORTE D'ARTHUR' by THOMAS MALLORY.

MALLORY's story is considered by many to be the definitive rendering of the convolted 'history' of the doomed KING ARTHUR & his KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE. MALLORY's plot maynot be identical to any produced by CLAREMONT, or any other comics writer, but the characters are.

'Allegory' is the telling of two tales in one. On the literal level there is the 'story' : of knights riding in defence of a lady's virtue or of super-heroes defending the earth from villains of awesome evil. The second level of the allegory is hidden within the first. It is a moral tale. It instructs the reader. It tells us to take note of what the Good Guys do in order to defeat the monsters & to use these men as our role-models. EDMUND SPENCER wrote 'THE FAERIE QUEEN' in the late 16th century & the first years of the 17th. His work involves brave knights performing valorous actions designed to symbolise for the reader the right path to ensure himself of salvation. The knights symbolised each of the 'cardinal virtues' that a holy man should possess & the evil creatures symbolised the temptations that a man aspiring to a holy life will encounter & which will try to turn him from the holy path. Each knight is possessed of matchless strength & spiritual fortitude. They dispatch their enemies with such skill as to make WOLVERINE whistle in admiration. They are super-heroes, right ??

The super-hero tales of today's comic-books are the newest manifestation of the 'Romantic Epics' popular in SPENCER's time;& whose form SPENCER emulated in THE FAERIE QUEEN. Other super-heroes, such as JAMES BOND (especially CONNERY's version), DIRTY HARRY & the MAN WITH NO NAME also spring from this tradition. They are all champions of Good (though the question may arise as to whose idea of 'Good' they champion). They all face insurmountable odds & succeed in surmounting them. The comics & films all provide enjoyable light entertainment, but there are other levels to be acknowledged.



The world is an unpredictable place. We know this & we also know that it is better not to dwell on the fact. It isn't good for the ego that we ponder the number of ways in which our lives could be irrevokably ruined - really 'screwed up'. Fiction is a way in which we forget this & which allows us to think more productive thoughts. Comic books are a crude form of fiction. Their message is, on the whole, a simple one: The Good Guys always win. We all know that SPIDER-MAN is not going to be killed by DOC OCK or KRAVEN THE HUNTER or any other villain that the writers put him up against. Even if a member of a team dies, rarely is it without its heavily-alluded-to positive aspect. JEAN GREY committed suicide in order that the lives of others be preserved (I wonder what the VATICAN would make of such a suicide ??). UNCLE BEN's death caused PETER PARKER to take up the hero business. SPIDER-MAN captures the killer & order is restored. Good wins out in the end. Reassuring, isn't it ??

Tied in with this message, perhaps even the root of the message, are our own attitudes to the world. Super-heroes act out for us our wish to do battle with the world - which we all know is OUT TO GET US! Wouldn't we just love to beat some sense into those madmen holding the threat of nuclear extinction over our heads ?? And in the name of peace, too!! Wouldn't we like to take GEOFF up on his offer of ABSOLUTE POWER & set the world to rights ?? The X-MEN do it for us. They take on the evil of the world in its various manifestations (just as the knights of THE FAERIE QUEEN do) & come out the winners! They do get hurt, but each wound has its positive side. The prize is all the more worthwhile if we have to struggle to achive it; & Peace & Goodness are pretty worthwhile, wouldn't you say ?? Another prize is Freedom: The Great American Preoccupation. How many times have the X-MEN been bound or caged & have been made to endure pain, humilation & the threat of violent extinction in order to regain their freedom ?? Think about ARCADE's MURDERWORLD. Why not re-name it 'The Real World'?? We see the X-MEN get out of it alive & doesn't that bolster our own hope of surviving our lives more or less intact ?? These stories tell us that we can, if we act like the Good Guys - the knights in skintight armour.

SIMON JOWETT'84

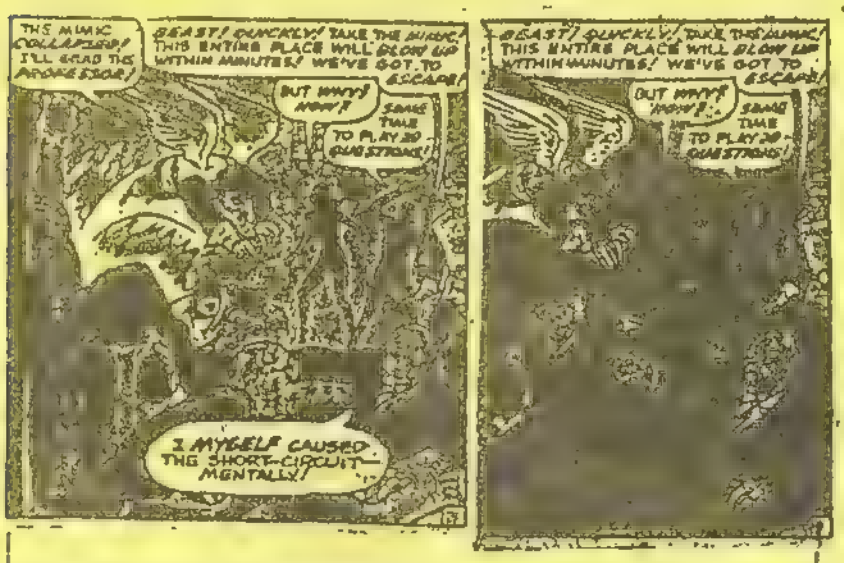
PART ONE — AMERICAN

Re-Intro-USA

'Oh no. Not more useless trivia', I can hear the sceptics cry. Well, no. Not this time. How many of you out there can afford (or would willingly pay for) a pristine copy of X-MEN # 1 or X-MEN GIANT-SIZE # 1 ?? Not many, I'll wager. This complete REPRINT INDEX should enable you to see where issues of comics that are missing from your collection were reprinted.

The REPRINT INDEX is in 2 volumes. The first covers the AMERICAN REPRINTS - all of which were in colour (in many instances, also recoloured); although back-up features, notably the start of the ORIGINS series were omitted. The second looks at the ODHAMS POWER COMICS of the mid-60s - which were the first comprehensive reprints of MARVEL COMICS in this country. SMASH, POW & WHAM following the traditional British weekly format & FANTASTIC & TERRIFIC meeting the American monthly format half-way with (usually) half of a monthly story per issue. This volume also deals with the long-running pot-pourri that is U.K.MARVEL, now into its 12th year. Its wide range of short-lived titles reflect many changes in format & editorial style, & sadly, the powerful influence of economic constraints on a company with stringent controls over its resources.

More details on these outlines in the next volume. For now, a closer look at the American reprints of the X-MEN.


THIS MIMIC COLLAPSED! I'LL SCAN THE ARCHIVES!
BEAST! QUICKLY! TAKE THE MIMIC! THIS ENTIRE PLACE WILL BLOW UP WITHIN MINUTES! WE'VE GOT TO ESCAPE!
BUT WHY'S HOW?
SAME TIME TO PLAY 3D CHESS!
I MYSELF CAUSED THE SHORT-CIRCUIT— MENTALLY!

A comparison between panels from X-MEN # 69 reprint (left) & the original from X-MEN # 19 (right). The additional XAVIER was taken from the first panel of the next page which was ommitted in the reprint to provide space for the Circulation & Sales Figures.

HE'S ALIVE!... IN A STATE OF SHOCK!
THEN, AS SOON AS WE'VE GOT HIM OUT...
WE'VE GOT TO GET HIM TO A DOCTOR!
THEN, ONCE WE GET HIM TO A DOCTOR...
HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT!
THE END

A comparison between panels from X-MEN # 59 (left) & X-MEN GIANT-SIZE # 2 (right) - the latter change in dialogue was obviously done to give the story a feeling of completeness in its reprint form.

ABOVE, an over-used NEAL ADAMS cover for X-MEN # 56, although it has also appeared in ADAMS' own Index & in X-MEN CLASSICS # 1. It was changed because it felt the team obscured the title too much.

In the mid-to-late 1960s, MARVEL produced a number of reprint titles featuring their most popular super-hero strips. For anyone interested in reprints other than the X-MEN, I can recommend 'TWO DECADES OF COMICS' which gives details of super-hero reprint titles & their contents. The X-MEN were considered popular enough to warrant reprinting, although they were not awarded a reprint title that ran concurrently with the original title, as were SPIDER-MAN (MARVEL TALES), FANTASTIC FOUR (MARVEL'S GREATEST COMICS) & HULK (MARVEL SUPER-HEROES). Their first 45 issues were reprinted, the bulk of them in their own title which resumed its numbering after # 66 - the last original X-MEN story.

By & large, from the issues that I've been able to verify, the reprints were unaltered from the originals which, as we shall see in the next volume, was not entirely the case in this country. 'THE X-MEN CHRONICLES', published in 1981 by FANTACO, lists all the U.S. reprints of the X-MEN. However, it does not say if any pages were omitted & 'TWO DECADES' notes that several of the early reprint titles did omit pages. The 'MARVEL COMICS INDEX (VOLUME 9A)' gives this information for the reprints featured in the X-MEN's own title, annuals & Giant-Size editions only. In the INDEX opposite, the stories reprinted can be regarded as whole except those with a suffix number to them which you must refer to the footnotes on the back page.

As I intimated in the introduction, the ORIGINS OF THE X-MEN series which were featured as a back-up from # 38-57 was not reprinted when # 38-45 were - their place taken by mystery reprints, usually by LEE/DITKO. The second short-lived reprint series, AMAZING ADVENTURES VOLUME 2 reprinted the first 11 instalments in sequence.

I have decided not to include the dates of the reprint titles for 2 reasons. I don't think it is of great signifi-cance in this context (& the MARVEL COMICS INDEX & the CHRONICLES give this information anyway).

The order of the entries in the INDEX follows the chronological oder of the originals as given in MARVEL COMICS INDEX, the X-MEN CHRONICLES & in the X-INDEX in CEREBRO.

IAN CLARK'84

AMERICAN REPRINT INDEX

ORIGINAL	REPRINT
X-MEN # 1	MARVEL TALES # 2 AMAZING ADVENTURES # 1-2(vol 2)
X-MEN # 2	MARVEL SUPER-HEROES # 21 AMAZING ADVENTURES # 3-4(vol 2)
X-MEN # 3	MARVEL SUPER-HEROES # 22 AMAZING ADVENTURES # 5-6(vol 2)
X-MEN # 4	MARVEL SUPER-HEROES # 23 AMAZING ADVENTURES # 7-8(vol 2)
X-MEN # 5	MARVEL SUPER-HEROES # 24 AMAZING ADVENTURES # 9-10(vol 2)
FANTASTIC FOUR # 28	FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL # 4 MARVEL COLLECTORS ITEM CLASSICS # 20
X-MEN # 6	MARVEL SUPER-HEROES # 25 AMAZING ADVENTURES # 11-12(vol2)
X-MEN # 7	MARVEL SUPER-HEROES # 26[1] AMAZING ADVENTURES # 13 (vol 2)
X-MEN # 8	MARVEL SUPER-HEROES # 27 AMAZING ADVENTURES # 14 (vol 2)
X-MEN # 9	X-MEN KING-SIZE ANNUAL # 1
FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL # 3	FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL # 9[2] FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL # 10[3]
X-MEN # 10	KA-ZAR # 1[4]
X-MEN # 11	X-MEN KING-SIZE ANNUAL # 1
X-MEN # 12	X-MEN # 67
X-MEN # 13	X-MEN # 67
X-MEN # 14	X-MEN # 68
X-MEN # 15	X-MEN # 68
X-MEN # 16	X-MEN # 69
X-MEN # 17	X-MEN # 70
X-MEN # 18	X-MEN # 70
X-MEN # 19	X-MEN # 69[5]
X-MEN # 20	X-MEN # 71
X-MEN # 21	X-MEN # 72
X-MEN # 22	X-MEN KING-SIZE ANNUAL # 2[6]
X-MEN # 23	X-MEN KING-SIZE ANNUAL # 2[7]
X-MEN # 24	X-MEN # 72
X-MEN # 25	X-MEN # 73
X-MEN # 26	X-MEN # 74
X-MEN # 27	X-MEN # 75
X-MEN # 28	X-MEN # 76
X-MEN # 29	X-MEN # 77
X-MEN # 30	X-MEN # 78[8]
X-MEN # 31	X-MEN # 79
X-MEN # 32	X-MEN # 80
X-MEN # 33	X-MEN # 81
X-MEN # 34	X-MEN # 82

ORIGINAL		REPRINT
X-MEN # 35		X-MEN # 83
X-MEN # 36		X-MEN # 84
X-MEN # 37		X-MEN # 85
X-MEN # 38	(back-up)	X-MEN # 86 AMAZING ADVENTURES # 1 (vol 2)
X-MEN # 39	(back-up)	X-MEN # 87 AMAZING ADVENTURES # 2 (vol 2)
X-MEN # 40	(back-up)	X-MEN # 88 AMAZING ADVENTURES # 3 (vol 2)
X-MEN # 41	(back-up)	X-MEN # 89 AMAZING ADVENTURES # 4 (vol 2)
X-MEN # 42	(back-up)	X-MEN # 90 AMAZING ADVENTURES # 5 (vol 2)
X-MEN # 43	(back-up) (back-up)	X-MEN # 91 AMAZING ADVENTURES # 6 (vol 2) X-MEN GIANT-SIZE # 1
X-MEN # 44	(back-up)	X-MEN # 92 AMAZING ADVENTURES # 7 (vol 2)
X-MEN # 45	(back-up)	X-MEN # 93 MARVEL TRIPLE-ACTION # 45[9] AMAZING ADVENTURES # 8 (vol 2)
AVENGERS # 53		MARVEL TRIPLE-ACTION # 46[10]
X-MEN # 46	(back-up)	AMAZING ADVENTURES # 9 (vol 2)
X-MEN # 47	(back-up) (back-up)	AMAZING ADVENTURES #10 (vol 2) X-MEN GIANT-SIZE # 1
X-MEN # 48	(back-up)	AMAZING ADVENTURES #11 (vol 2)
X-MEN # 57	(back-up)	X-MEN GIANT-SIZE # 2 X-MEN CLASSICS # 1 X-MEN GIANT-SIZE # 1[11]
X-MEN # 58		X-MEN GIANT-SIZE # 2[12] X-MEN CLASSICS # 1
X-MEN # 59		X-MEN GIANT-SIZE # 2[13] X-MEN CLASSICS # 1 (in part) X-MEN CLASSICS # 2
X-MEN # 60		X-MEN CLASSICS # 2
X-MEN # 61		X-MEN CLASSICS # 2 (in part) X-MEN CLASSICS # 3
X-MEN # 62		X-MEN CLASSICS # 3
X-MEN # 63		X-MEN CLASSICS # 3
MARVEL TEAM-UP # 4		MARVEL TREASURY EDITION # 18[14]
X-MEN GIANT-SIZE # 1		X-MEN -ILLUSTRATED PAPERBACK(b&w) X-MEN SPECIAL EDITION # 1
X-MEN # 117		X-MEN -ILLUSTRATED PAPERBACK(b&w)
X-MEN # 134		X-MEN TRADE PAPERBACK
X-MEN # 135		X-MEN TRADE PAPERBACK
X-MEN # 136		X-MEN TRADE PAPERBACK
X-MEN # 137		X-MEN TRADE PAPERBACK[15]

SPACE FOR FUTURE ENTRIES

..Footnotes...

The following cover the panels & pages which were omitted in the reprints. It does not claim to be totally comprehensive & any others discovered (including dialogue alterations & word balloon movement) should be noted & sent to the editorial address.
Colouring changes have appeared without exception - most notable in the X-MEN CLASSICS. This is largely due to the fact that the master zeroxes are in black & white & fresh colour instructions for the printers have to be prepared - by a different colourist with a different interpretation.

FOOTNOTE 1 : Omitted from X-MEN ≠ 7 were : Page 14 panels 4 - 5
Page 15 panel 2
Page 16 panels 2 - 4
Page 18 panels 2 - 5
Page 19 panels 1 & 3
In this reprint, MAGNETO's costume is coloured differently: cloak, gauntlets etc are blue instead of mauve; helmet blue with red trimming instead of red with mauve trimming.

FOOTNOTE 2 : Omitted from FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL ≠ 3 were : Pages 7 - 8

FOOTNOTE 3 : Omitted from FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL ≠ 3 was : Page 20

FOOTNOTE 4 : KA-ZAR 1st series - 1970-71 - reprints of earlier KA-ZAR adventures in the various guest appearances he made in other titles. There was a new ANGEL back-up continued story in ≠ 2 - 3, which was concluded in MARVEL TALES ≠ 30.

FOOTNOTE 5 : Omitted from X-MEN ≠ 19 was : Page 20 panel 1

FOOTNOTE 6 : Omitted from X-MEN ≠ 22 was : Page 20 , except for some lettering from the last panel which is placed into the last panel of page 19.

FOOTNOTE 7 : Omitted from X-MEN ≠ 23 were : Page 11 panels 4 - 6
Page 12 panels 2 - 6
Page 13 panels 2 - 5

FOOTNOTE 8 : The title was changed from 'THE WARLOCK WAKES' to 'THE MENACE OF MERLIN' so as not to confuse readers with ADAM WARLOCK.

FOOTNOTE 9 : 3 extra pages were reprinted from AVENGERS ≠ 52 as a tie-in to the X-MEN/AVENGERS cross-over. MARVEL TRIPLE-ACTION was an AVENGERS reprint title.

FOOTNOTE 10 : Omitted from AVENGERS ≠ 53 were : Pages 9 & 11

FOOTNOTE 11 : Omitted from X-MEN ≠ 57's back-up was : Page 2

FOOTNOTE 12 : Omitted from X-MEN ≠ 58 was : Page 14

FOOTNOTE 13 : Omitted from X-MEN ≠ 59 were : Pages 14, 15 & 19
Page 20 panels 3 - 5

FOOTNOTE 14 : Despite MARVEL's lengthy run of TREASURY EDITIONS, this was the first time that the X-MEN appeared as a team in the series of reprints.

FOOTNOTE 15 : Despite the massive popularity of X-MEN ≠ 137, apart from the release of the original ending in PHOENIX:THE UNTOLD STORY, this will be the first reprinting of this issue, including the issues leading upto it. The X-MEN TRADE PAPERBACK is supposed to be released this year but not available at time of going to press, so no further details can be given.

A

LESTER FRE

SCAN

EAMON